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MAY 1995

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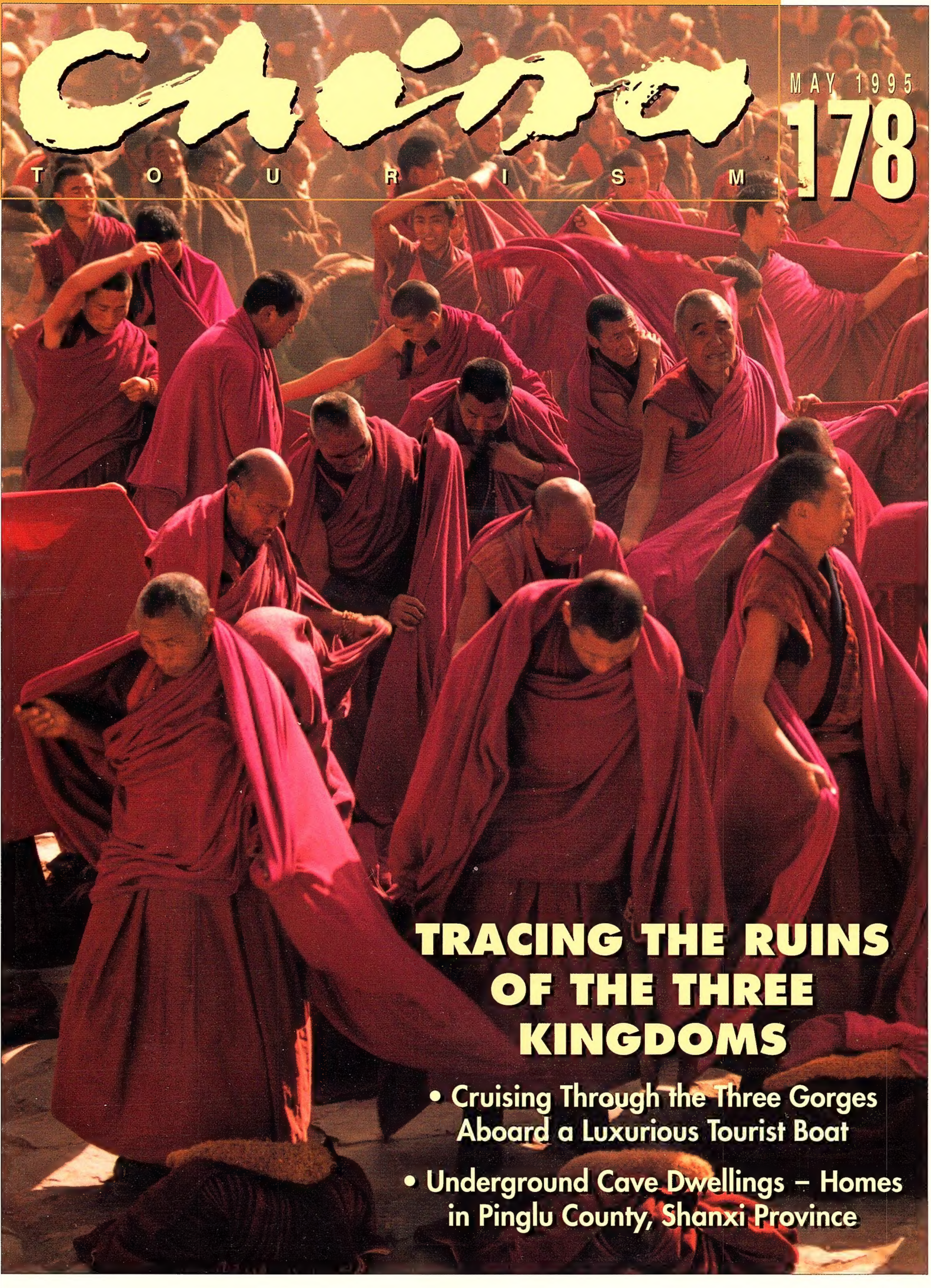

TRACING THE RUINS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS

- Cruising Through the Three Gorges Aboard a Luxurious Tourist Boat
- Underground Cave Dwellings – Homes in Pinglu County, Shanxi Province

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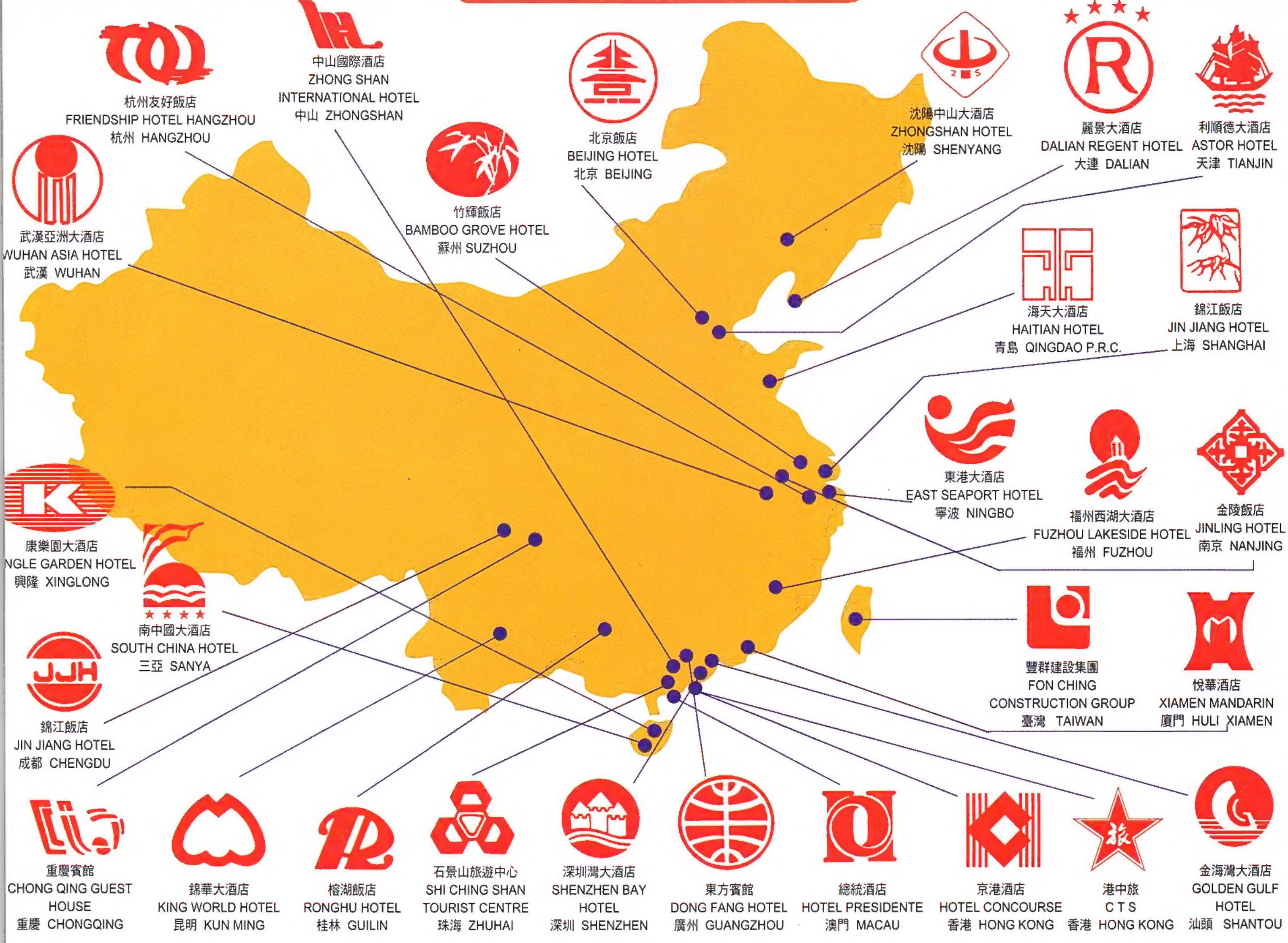

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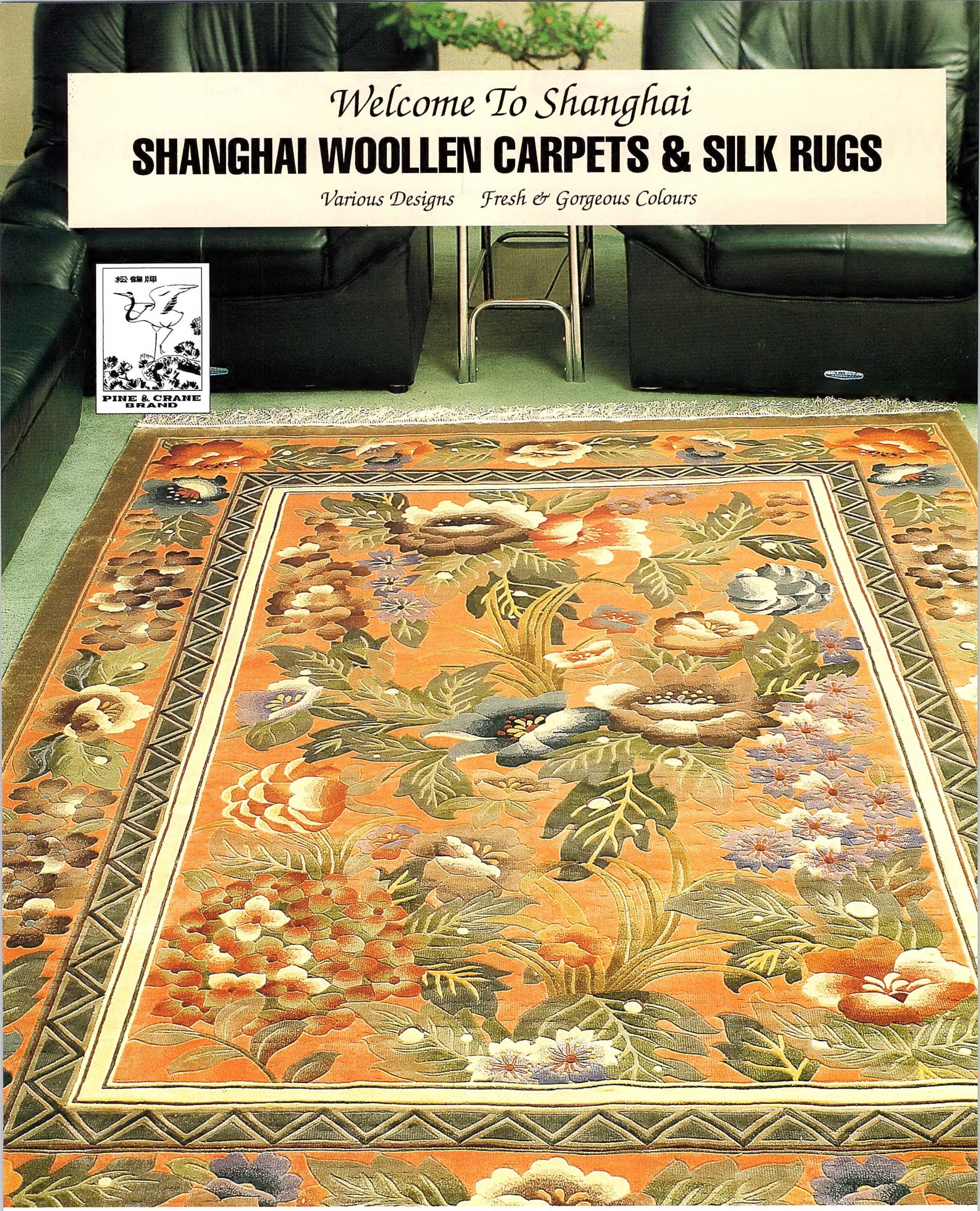

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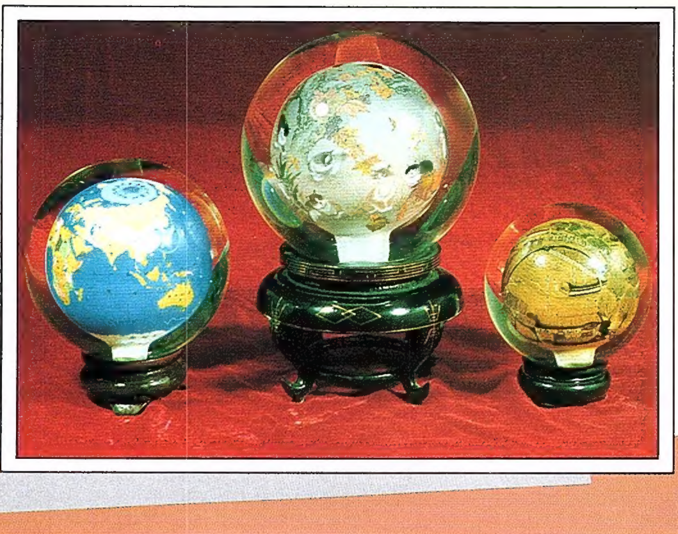

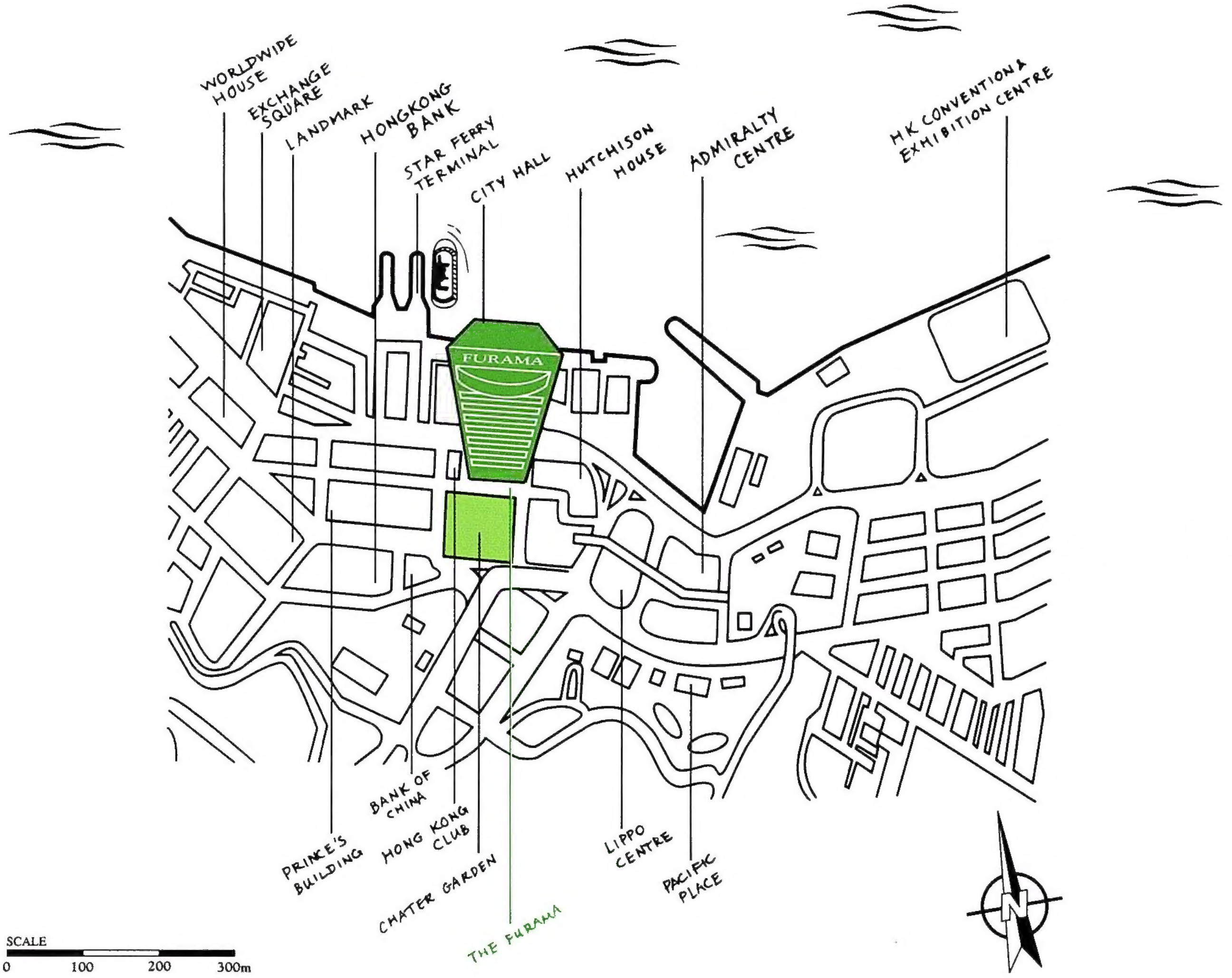

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Three Landscapes : Snow, Water and Epic

The picturesque Three Gorges and its scenic spots along the Yangtse River have long been praised by well-known poets like Li Bai (701-762) and Qu Yuan (c. 340-278 B.C.). Currently, the Three Gorges is under construction to achieve a new fame to build the world's largest dam, and this will bring about tremendous changes to many of the gorge's original tourist attractions. Therefore, it is with little surprise that there has been a surge of visitors in recent years. In this issue, we show you how you can enjoy your trip comfortably in the beautiful mountain and river scenery of the Three Gorges, just by stepping on board a four-star luxury cruise. It may not be as exhilarating as a raft or traditional pea shell boat ride along the rapids, but the cruise will offer you a leisurely and magnificent view of the gorges, and the chance to explore sites on shore through guided tours such as "Ghost City" and the Tujia nationality.

Continuing the beautiful and sublime, for the hardy traveller we visit the Changbai Mountains in Northeast China. Adjacent to the Chinese-Korean border, these snow-capped mountains only begin to melt in May, when you can climb up to the mountains in the warmer weather. In June, the scenery on the mountains is particularly ravishing with its azaleas in full red bloom against the silvery white snow.

And finally, another literary and epic landscape, as immortalized through *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* by the writer Luo Guanzhong, offers travel spanning across five provinces. A rich hybrid of half cult and half history, the Three Kingdoms period (220-280) is not something to be missed. Reader, turn over and enter a voyage of discovery.

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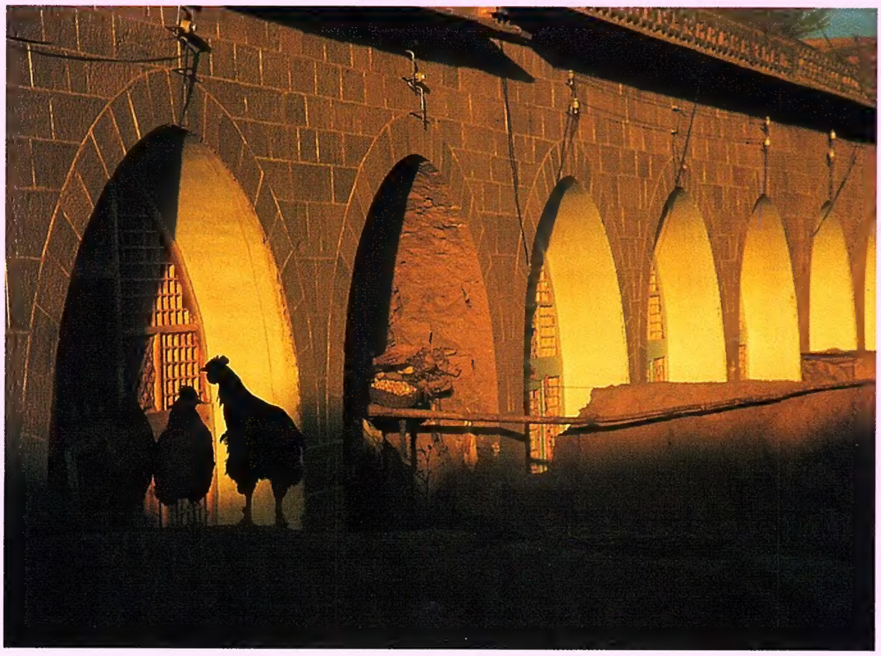
Tracing the Ruins of the Three Kingdoms (1) 8

Article by Shi Bao Xiu

Hagiology or history? The Three Kingdoms begetting a host of heroes of cult status renowned for their wit, honour and resourcefulness such as Cao Cao, Guan Yu, Zhang Fei and Zhuge Liang. Is *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* really the stuff of Homer's epic *The Odyssey* and *The Iliad?* Even today throughout the Mainland and Taiwan there are temples to worship Lord Guan, "God of War", and his fellow brothers-in-arms who have become icons and household gods in Chinese culture.

FASCINATING CUSTOMS



Underground Cave Dwellings — Homes in Pinglu County, Shanxi Province 44

Photos & Article by Shan Xiaogang

An alternative brave new world? Photographed by foreign satellite and deduced as pits for launching guided nuclear missiles. We reveal a hidden community in a loess gully landscape. These underground cave dwellings or sunken courtyards have been a traditional habitat for over a staggering 5,000 years. Planted with fruit trees below ground level, whole families together with their pets and livestock lead a subterranean existence.

LANDSCAPES AROUND CHINA

Cruising Through the Three Gorges Aboard a Luxurious Tourist Boat 32

Article by Li Liang

All aboard the 4-star *Splendid China,* a luxury cruise. Described as a floating Chinese Palace, why not make your trip along the historic Three Gorges a double pleasure and an unforgettable experience? Visit the hometown of China's greatest ancient poet, Qu Yuan, and listen to the echoes of rustic tracker songs sung for hundreds of years amidst the unspoilt and stunning scenery of the Three Gorges.

A Winter Tour of the Changbai Mountains 54

Article by Shi Bao Xiu

A second Mount Kailas? Find out why the North and South Koreans worship Changbai's mountaintops. For the dauntless and intrepid traveller, the Changbai Mountains with its thick accumulations of snow and ice for several months of the year is an excellent option for anyone who loves winter sports. Night temperatures drop as low as -40°C in this polar landscape, but unique to this little Antarctica are the scorching sulphur Hot Springs and Changbaishan Nature Reserve where ginseng is found.

TRACING THE PAST

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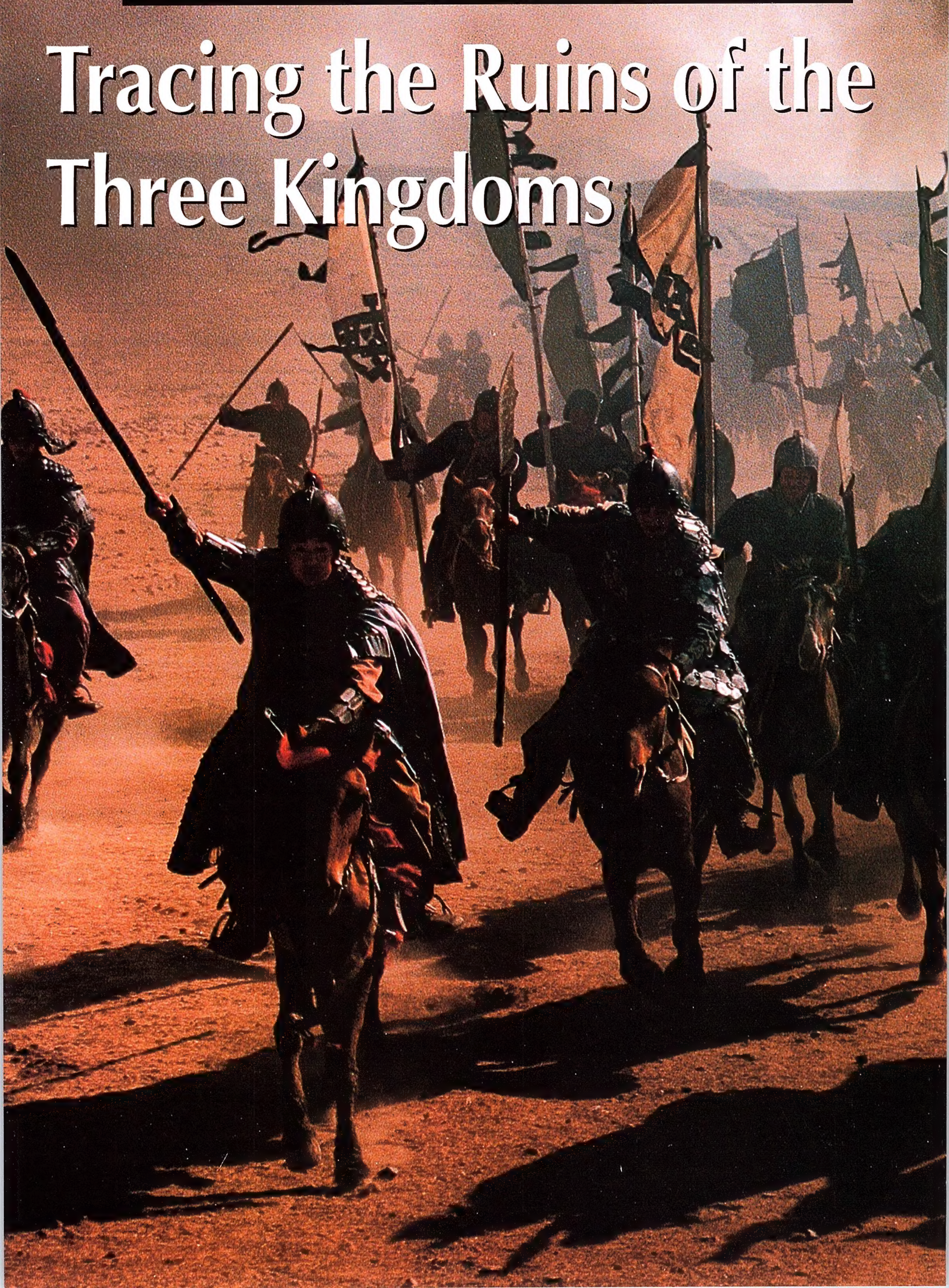
Front Cover: Ceremony at Sunning the Buddha Festival in Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu Province *(by Chen Binghong)*

Tracing the Ruins of the Three Kingdoms



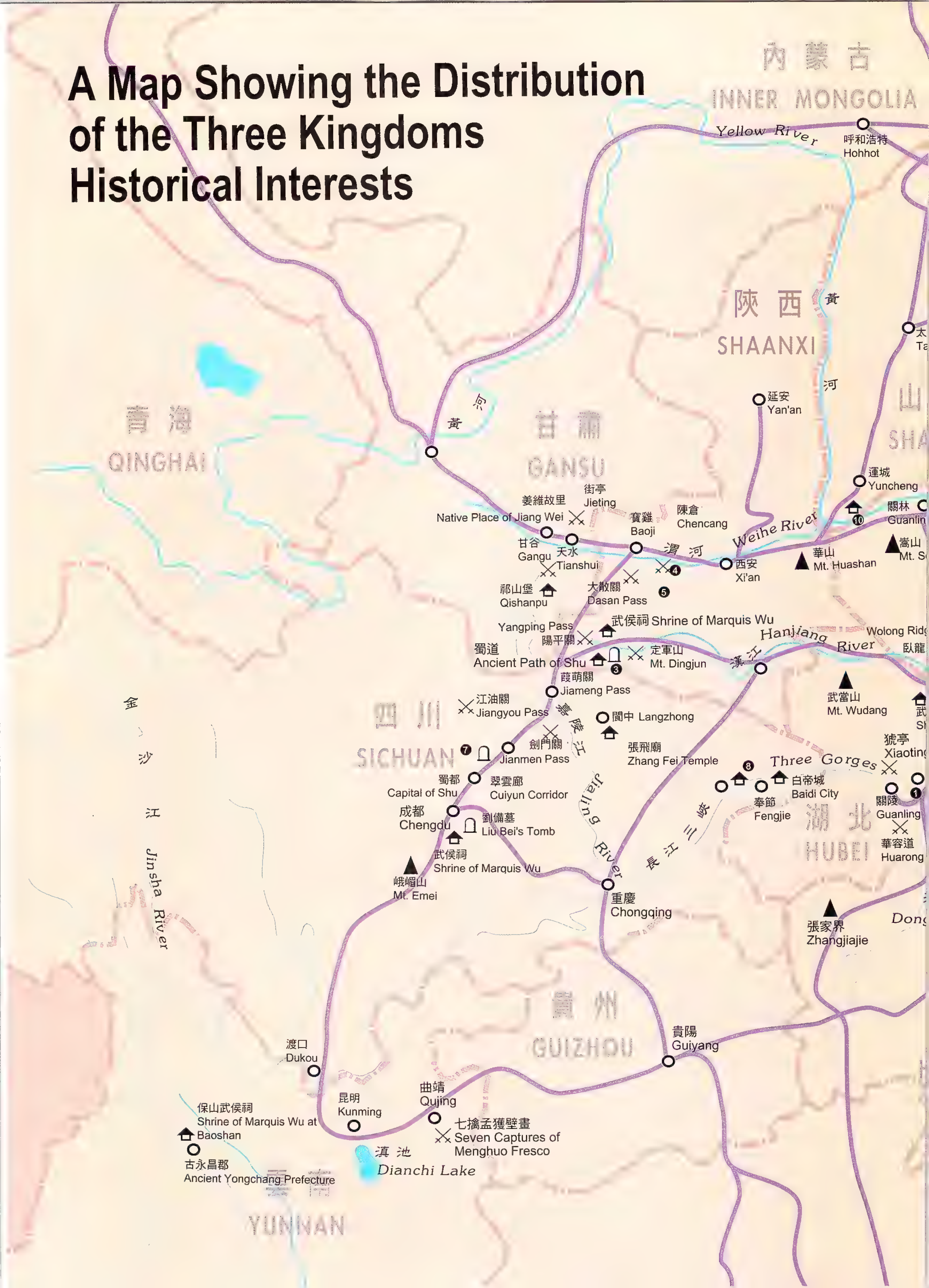
In China's long and ancient history of many dynasties, the Three Kingdoms is one of the shortest. The 60 years (220-280) from the rise to the fall of the Three Kingdoms saw continuous expeditions, wars and contentions which gave room for gallant people to show their skills in fighting and provided the intelligent with an opportunity of employing their astuteness and resourcefulness, thus giving rise to the emergence of outstanding men well-versed in political or military affairs.

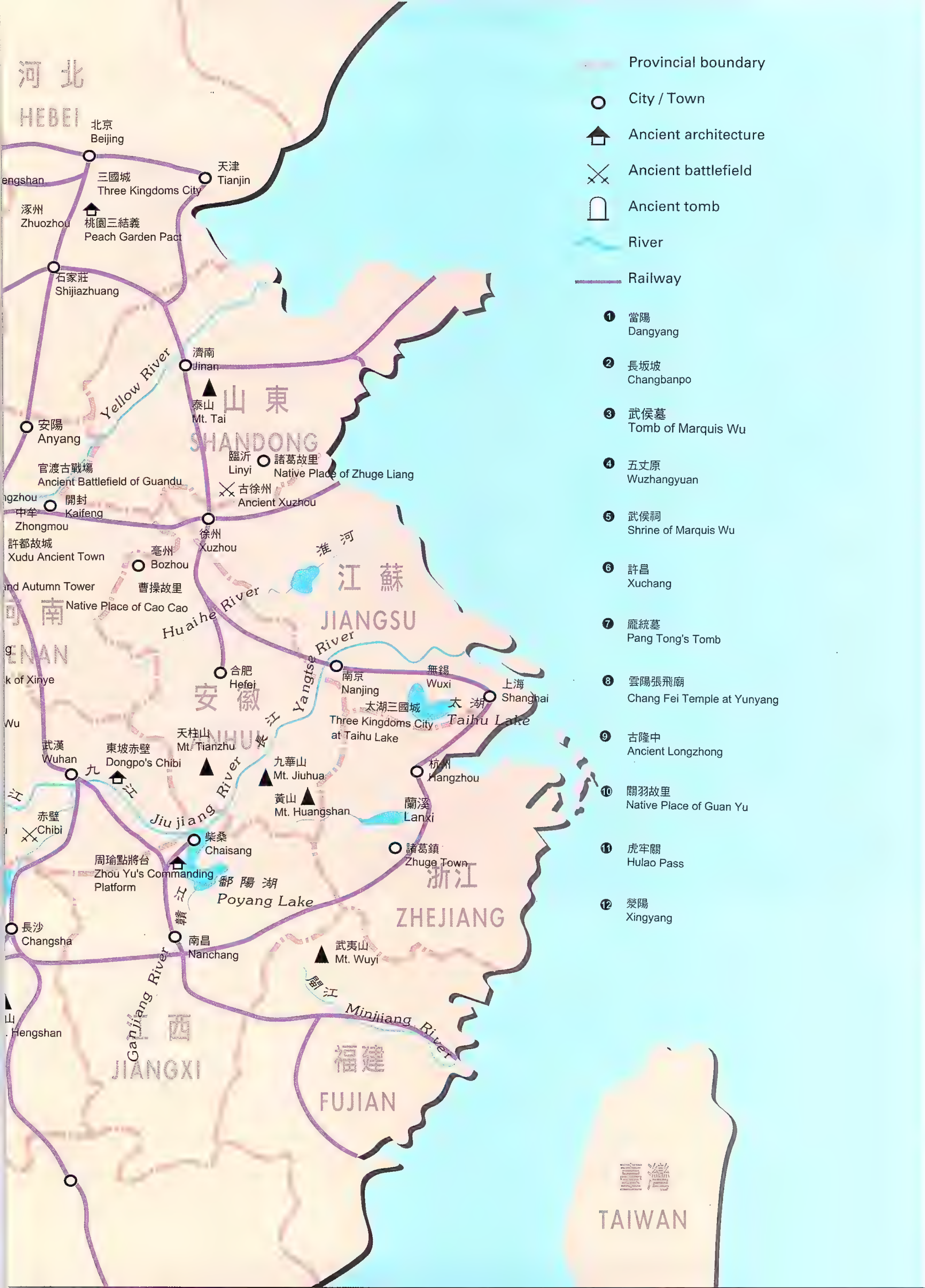
Later, a minor scholar and novelist called Luo Guanzhong, employed a technique of combining 30 percent historical fact with 70 percent creative story-telling and presented the glories of the Three Kingdoms period in a book more legendary than historical entitled *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. Since then, historical figures of that period have appeared in dramas, paintings, temples, and permeated the life of the common people. In fact, they have even gone abroad to become idols in Japan and the West.

Against this background, we sent out special reporters on a journey to trace the footsteps of the main figures of the Three Kingdoms and visit some of the major former battlefields, passing through more than 1,600 years with its destruction of many castles, strategic passes and mausoleums. The historical figures, however, still stand tall in temples and are worshipped by an endless stream of pilgrims.

The ruins of the Three Kingdoms are mainly spread over in today's Henan, Hubei, Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu provinces. Many of the famous strategic passes and battle grounds are found in the mountains and remote villages, thus offering readers and tourists an especially experience rewarding to go on a trip, tracing the Three Kingdoms marvelling at the ruins and to enjoy the kingdom's scenery.

A Map Showing the Distribution of the Three Kingdoms Historical Interests




Provincial boundary
City / Town
Ancient architecture
Ancient battlefield
Ancient tomb
River
Railway
❶ 當陽 Dangyang
❷ 長坂坡 Changbanpo
❸ 武侯墓 Tomb of Marquis Wu
❹ 五丈原 Wuzhangyuan
❺ 武侯祠 Shrine of Marquis Wu
❻ 許昌 Xuchang
❼ 龐統墓 Pang Tong's Tomb
❽ 雲陽張飛廟 Chang Fei Temple at Yunyang
❾ 古隆中 Ancient Longzhong
❿ 關羽故里 Native Place of Guan Yu
⓫ 虎牢關 Hulao Pass
⓬ 滎陽 Xingyang
河北
HEBEI
北京 Beijing
天津 Tianjin
engshan
三國城 Three Kingdoms City
涿州 Zhuozhou
桃園三結義 Peach Garden Pact
石家莊 Shijiazhuang
濟南 Jinan
Yellow River
泰山 Mt. Tai
山東
SHANDONG
安陽 Anyang
臨沂 Linyi
諸葛故里 Native Place of Zhuge Liang
官渡古戰場 Ancient Battlefield of Guandu
古徐州 Ancient Xuzhou
ngzhou
中牟 Zhongmou
開封 Kaifeng
徐州 Xuzhou
許都故城 Xudu Ancient Town
亳州 Bozhou
淮河
江蘇
JIANGSU
nd Autumn Tower
曹操故里 Native Place of Cao Cao
南
ENAN
Huaihe River
k of Xinye
合肥 Hefei
安徽
ANHUI
Yangtse River
長江
南京 Nanjing
無錫 Wuxi
上海 Shanghai
太湖三國城 Three Kingdoms City at Taihu Lake
太湖 Taihu Lake
Wu
武漢 Wuhan
東坡赤壁 Dongpo's Chibi
天柱山 Mt. Tianzhu
九華山 Mt. Jiuhua
杭州 Hangzhou
九江
Jiu jiang River
黃山 Mt. Huangshan
蘭溪 Lanxi
赤壁 Chibi
柴桑 Chaisang
諸葛鎮 Zhuge Town
周瑜點將台 Zhou Yu's Commanding Platform
鄱陽湖 Poyang Lake
浙江
ZHEJIANG
贛江
長沙 Changsha
南昌 Nanchang
武夷山 Mt. Wuyi
Ganjiang River
閩江
Minjiang River
山 Hengshan
江西
JIANGXI
福建
FUJIAN
臺灣
TAIWAN

Fighting for Supremacy on the Central Plains

ARTICLE BY SHI BAO XIU

The rebellion waged by the Yellow Turban Army towards the end of the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220) woke up the ambitions of men trained in politics and military strategy, to either contend for supremacy or establish a warlord rule in certain areas. Abruptly, an unprecedented war of both intelligence and bravery unfolded on the rich and fertile Central Plains.

We began our trip from Zhuozhou where "three gallant men cemented a sworn brotherhood in a peach garden", went south to Hulao Pass in Xingyang, and saw the ancient battlefield where "three heroes fought with General Lü Bu". We then turned eastward to Zhongmou where we visited the barracks of the armies commanded by the rival Yuan Shao and Cao Cao during the Battle at Guandu built by local farmer-entrepreneurs.

In Xudu the ancient capital city near present-day Xuchang, where Prime Minster Cao Cao virtually held the young emperor under house arrest, and imposed his own despotic rule over the dukes and warlords across the country in the name of the emperor, only a section of earth wall remains, while the Baling Bridge and the Spring and Autumn Tower still stand. The ancient pavilion under which Liu Bei and Cao Cao, rulers of Shu and Wei — two of the three kingdoms, in their wine drinking sessions discussed who were the real men of strength in the country, however, no longer exists.

Zhuge Liang, a nonpareil sage, accurately predicted in his thatched hut at Wolong (Crouching Dragon) Ridge that the Han Dynasty would be replaced by three rival states. To look for the Wolong Ridge, we went both to Nanyang and Xiangyang.

Zhuozhou — The Site of Peach Garden Pact

PHOTOS BY SHI BAO XIU

2

The opening chapter of *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* is about three men of mutual faith becoming sworn brothers in a peach garden, and is a story, known as the Peach Garden Pact, that has been popularly cited as a good example in personal friendships, business circles and the rank and file of the military.

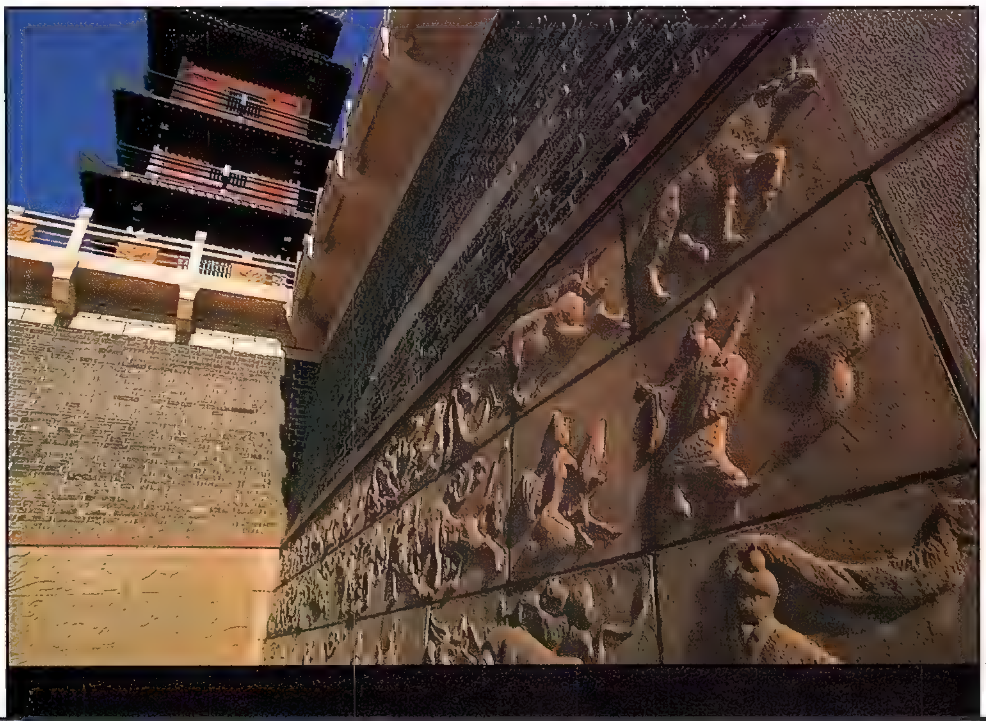
The story took place in what was then called Zhuoxian of Youzhou Prefecture or the present Zhuozhou City in Hebei Province, located southwest of Beijing.

Peach Garden and the Zhangfeidian Village

One year, the rebellious force called the Yellow Turban Army invaded Youzhou. Liu Bei and Zhang Fei, both natives of Zhuoxian in Youzhou, first met with each other while reading a government call for volunteers to the military. Then they came across Guan Yu, who was forced to abscond from his hometown in neighbouring Shanxi after killing a local despot. The three ambitious men wanting to improve their positions by joining the fight against the rebellion, went to the house of Zhang Fei whose family were relatively prosperous. The spot is not far from the city proper of present-day Zhuozhou. After downing a few cups of wine, they went to the peach garden in the back yard of the Zhangs' house and swore an oath for their brotherhood.

Early in the year, I went to the village and came across a group of women each holding a baby and enjoying the sunshine. I asked them

1. The three sworn brothers, Liu Bei, Guan Yu and Zhang Fei, whose career began in the political turmoil in the last years of the Eastern Han Dynasty.
2. Sharing the same faith and of similar status, three gallant men, sworn into brotherhood.
3. In Zhuozhou near Beijing, a new Three Kingdom Town has been recently constructed. After serving as a shooting ground for the TV drama series, it has become a new tourist attraction.



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about Zhang Fei and they replied that indeed this was his home village. As for the peach garden, there are several of them in the village and there is no way to tell which was the one where the Peach Garden Pact was cemented.

The Hometown of Liu Bei: remains of Sanyi Palace Gate

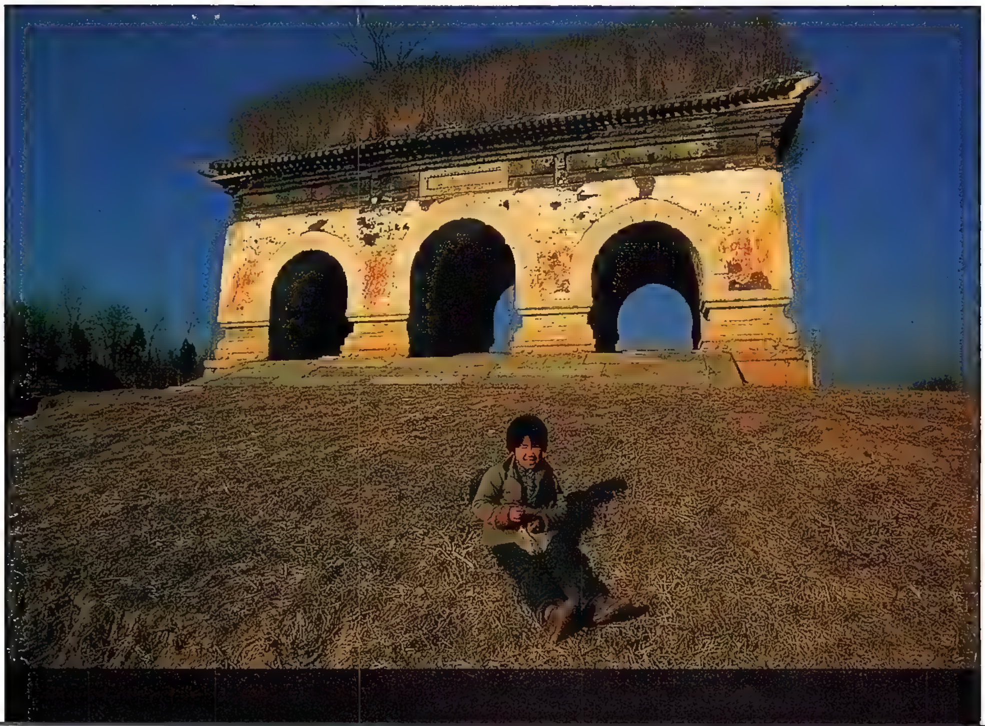
At most, just three kilometres away from Zhang Fei's village is Lousangmiao Village, hometown of Liu Bei who in his early life depended on making mattresses and straw sandals after his family had ost its peerage from the Imperial Household and sunk into poverty.

In the village, I searched for the big mulberry tree described as being southeast of Liu Bei's house in the first chapter of the historic novel. Having toured half of the village, all I saw were willow, elm, ocust and poplar trees no more than 20 to 30 years old. There was no sign of the giant mulberry tree. Before I asked any villagers, it suddenly dawned on me that there were locust trees dating back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and cypress trees from the Jin Dynasty (265-420). Mulberry trees, however, could never live long enough to be more than 1,000 years old.

Under the guidance of villagers, I came to the ruins of the Sanyi (Three Loyal Men's) Palace east of the village. On an open ground, stands the solitary village gate. Thick grass and thorns grew on the eaves and tiles of the gate. All the halls had totally disappeared. The villagers told me that all the structures were destroyed even before the onset of the "cultural revolution" which began in 1966.

Behind the gate is a stone tablet erected during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) which reveals the inscription in the handwriting of the emperor, approving the rebuilding of the palace during the reign of Zhengde (1506-1521). An inscribed text on the tablet records that the palace was first built during the reign of Qianning (894-897) of the Tang Dynasty.

1. A visit to the village school revealed that the Lius are a large clan at Lousangmiao. One-third of pupils share the same surname with Liu Bei.
2. The ancient stone tablet carved with the story detailing the reconsruction of the Sanyi Palace during the Ming Dynasty
3. At Zhang Fei's home village, there are several peach gardens but it is impossible to tell which is the one that used to stand behind the house of the Zhangs.
4. In the square at Lousangmiao Village, stands the solitary gate of an ancient temple which is carved with the characters Sanyi Palace.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Xingyang: Where Three Heroes Fought with Lü Bu

PHOTOS BY YU DESHUI

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I boarded a southbound train at Zhuozhou in search for the trail of the three sworn brothers. The cold North China wind whistled by as the train pushed forward while it was cozy and warm in the carriage. Passengers sat on the lower sleeper-bunks, enthusiastically discussing the current TV series of *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. The consensus seemed to be that the actor playing the part of Cao Cao did an excellent job while the actor for Guan Yu gave a more than true to life portrait.

I got off the train at Zhengzhou, the capital of Henan Province, and changed to a long-distance bus in the square outside the train station. In less than 40 minutes we arrived at the county seat of Xingyang. The ruins of Hulao Pass lie in the hills formed with yellow earth some 15 kilometres northwest of the town.

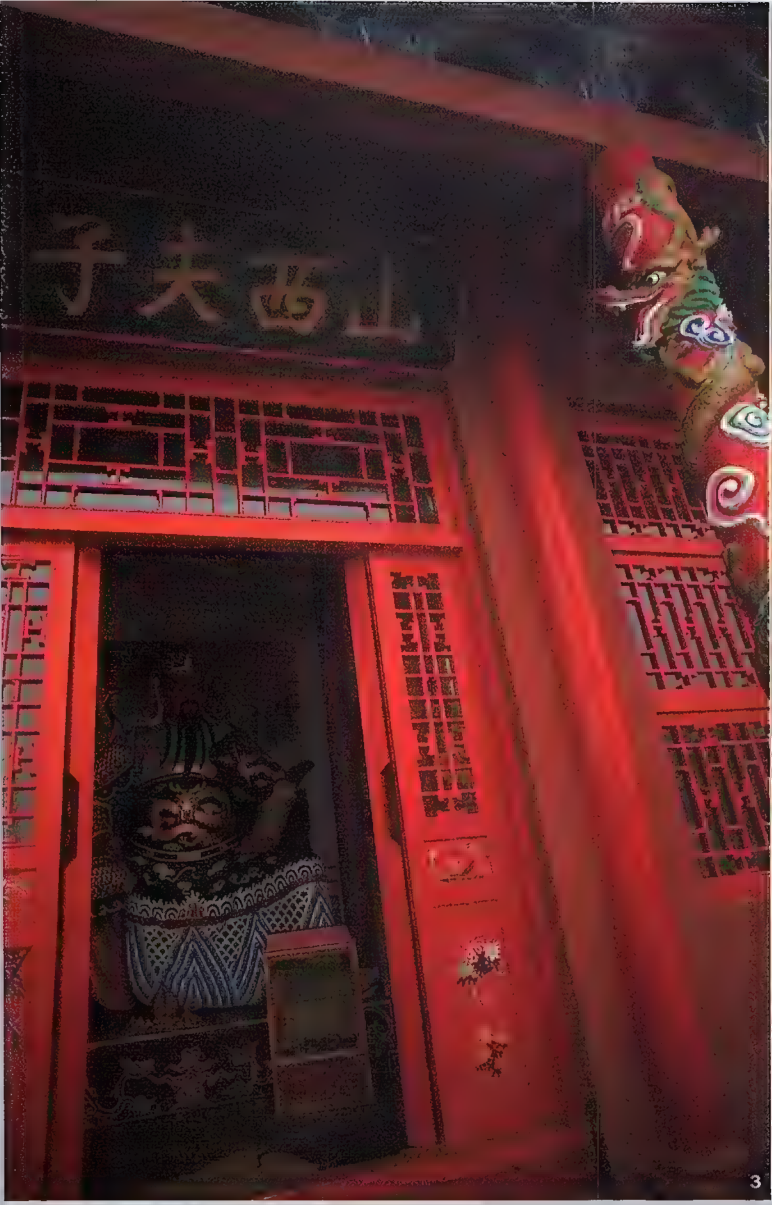
I tightened my heavy coat and stood on an earth mound in front of the pass ruins against the biting northerly wind blowing through the gully-marked loess landscape. The only thing that was of historical value was a stone tablet erected during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) standing by a dusty path. Three bold characters on the tablet announce: "Hulao Pass".

A Representation of an Ancient Battlefield

Perhaps because of the strong impact of *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* on the Chinese culture over the centuries, people have built many "historical sites" near Hulao Pass. So much that as time has gone by, many of these creative works have been regarded as real historical cultural relics today.

On the Dapi Mountain not far from the pass, are the Castle of General Lü Bu that faces the Yellow River in the north and Paoma (Horse Galloping) Ridge. At the foot of the mountain is the Horse Drinking Gully where Lü Bu's horse used to sip. Outside Lougou Village and half-way up the mountain, an iron chain of more then 10 metres long hangs down from the cliffs by the road side. According to the locals, this was the very chain laid by Zhang Fei to halt the extremely capable horse of General Lü Bu when the three sworn brothers fought with him. Zhang Fei often gave the impression of being careless but was actually a very effective and observant man.

1. In front of Hulao Pass, Liu Bei, Guan Yu and Zhang Fei once fought tenaciously with Lü Bu in rotation.
2. In the midst of desolate weathering grass on the mountain slope where Zhang Fei once had built his barracks, only a horse trough remains.
3. Guan Yu's outstanding performance in the fight in front of Hulao Pass won so much respect that people of later times built this temple in his memory.
4. Zhang Fei while appearing rough and simple, thought of a plan to lay an iron chain on the cliffs in front of Hulao Pass to stop the horse of General Lü Bu. Today, the chain is still hanging there.
5. The legendary Lü Bu's Castle is said to have stood on the earth ridge on the right against turbulent waters of the Yellow River.



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Xuchang: Where Capable Men Gathered

PHOTOS BY YAN XINFA

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I changed train in Zhengzhou and went south to Xuchang.

In his classical novel, Luo Guanzhong portrayed Cao Cao most successfully. Historical documents also pinpoint Cao Cao to be a most capable leader and commander. He not only knew how to enlist the service of talented people, but was most understanding in dealing with them. Of course, he could be most brutal when he deemed necessary. As a result, a strong force of men well-versed in politics and martial arts gathered under him.

After the death of unpopular "Imperial Rector", Dong Zhuo, warlords fought with each other in contention for supremacy. The Han Dynasty emperor alternated between a hostage or outcast in the hands of warlords. Yuan Shao who had hitherto always presented himself as a loyal official appointed by the emperor, evaded the responsibility of protecting the Han court. Cao Cao who was meticulous and far-sighted personally went to Luoyang to invite Emperor Xiandi of the Han to reestablish his capital in the city of Xuchang and change the reign title to Jian'an. Consequently, Cao Cao was made prime minister and held the real political power. A situation of exerting his rule over all dukes and warlord in the name of the emperor thus emerged. Also as an outcome of his manoeuvering, Yuan Shao whose families had for generations been court officials, Liu Bei, a distant uncle of the emperor and Sun Quan who virtually held the eastern part of the country under his reign, all fell target to expedition campaigns launched by the "central army" commanded by Prime Minister Cao Cao.

1. Two heroic figures, each with his own lofty aspirations, discussed who were the real men of strength in the country over cups of wine under the Green Plum Pavilion.
2. In the eighth month in 196, Cao Cao helped Emperor Xiandi reestablish the capital in Xuchang. This move won him the real power to run the dynastic court and gave him the supremacy over all dukes and warlords as he exerted his rule in the name of the helpless emperor.
3. Among the three founding rulers of the Three Kingdoms, Cao Cao is acknowledged as the most outstanding leader and commander. His unprecedented ways of enlisting capable people and personal style of composing poems have occupied a significant chapter in history.
4. After Cao Cao's death, his son departed from his policy of ruling in the name of the emperor by forcing Emperor Xiandi to abdicate. This is where the Chanrang Terrace used to be.
5. This is the original site of the capital city of Xudu during the lifetime of Emperor Xiandi of the Han Dynasty. Today, the local people refer to the original palace city as the Zhang and Pan Town after the emperor's two favourite concubines.

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Artifacts from the Ancient Capital of Xudu

The city of Xudu of the Three Kingdoms period in contrast to the present Xuchang City location, used to stand at Gucheng (Ancient Town) Village in a county also called Xuchang.

At Gucheng, I found the village head also good at enlisting the help of people with talents, as he sent a retired school teacher to be my guide. Once a teacher of physics at a middle school, the guide turned out to be nother fan of the story of the Three Kingdoms. Furthermore, as he was native of Xuchang, he knew well the details of the stories associated vith the Three Kingdoms.

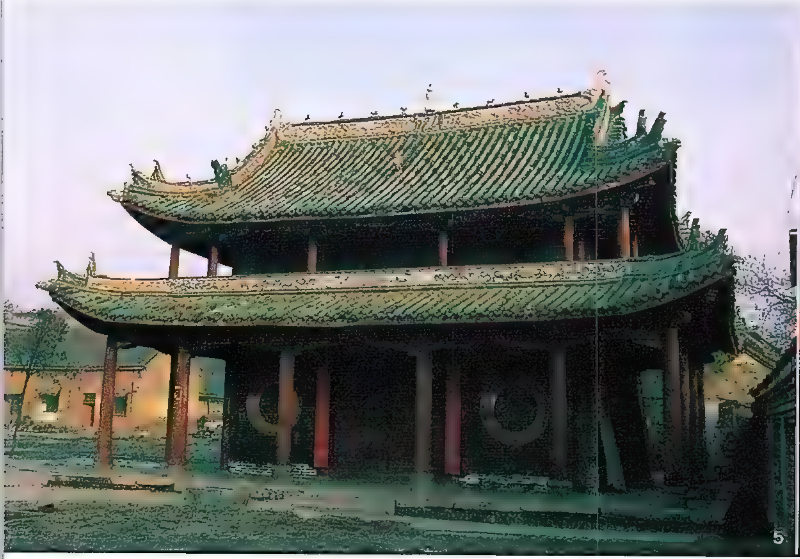
He took me to an earth wall only about two to three feet high and aid this was the ruins of the old city wall of the former capital. The local eople refer to the site with the low earth wall as the Zhang and Pan Town named after Emperor Xiandi's two favourite concubines Zhang and Pan, who were buried with the emperor in the town after their death. I icked up a few pieces of broken bricks and tiles which all carried on their urface the imprint of coarse cloth. The fragments showed a strong degree of veathering which indicated that it was highly possible that they were from he original Han Dynasty structures that once stood there.

I asked about the site where Emperor Xiandi and Cao Cao went unting. The old man pointed to Xutian Village 15 kilometres north. He old me that the Deer Hunting Terrace had long been reduced to a ound of earth.

ruined his eyes which could not open properly in sunlight or wind. Hence, statues of Guan Yu built in later times all portray him with his eyes half-shut. It is easy for anyone without the story background to wrongly assume Guan Yu's half-shut eyes as a look of arrogance.

The Baling Bridge

The famous Baling Bridge that spans across the Shiliang River in the western suburbs of Xuchang is said to be where Guan Yu accepted and picked up with his sword the robe presented him by Cao Cao. *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* writes that in order to repay Cao Cao's kind treatment, Guan Yu went to the battlefield and killed Yan Liang and Wen Chou — two enemy generals of Cao Cao. In the same battle he unexpectedly learned that his sworn brother Liu Bei was then serving under General Yuan Shao, a warlord in the north. Eager to be united with his former leader and brother, he left Xudu without making a formal goodbye. Upon hearing the news, Cao Cao forbade his people from pursuing Guan to kill him, but personally went after him and presented Guan with gold and a robe as gifts, an action which demonstrated Cao Cao's broad-mindedness, strong word of honour and the significance he attached to talented people. The three-arch bridge built with large black stones is wide enough for two horse-drawn carts to drive abreast. Near the west end of the bridge is a temple dedicated to Guan Yu, whose main hall houses a statue portraying Guan Yu reining in his horse. At the side are images of Lady Gan and Lady Mi — his two sisters-in-law in a carriage and Guan Yu reading *The Spring and Autumn Annals* by candlelight. Three stone tablets by the bridge each bear a carving: Guan Yu Leaving Cao Cao, Guan Yu Accepting the Robe with His Sword, and Picking up the Robe with His Sword, the last one of which is said to be executed from a line drawing by the master painter of the Tang Dynasty, Wu Daozi.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The Story of the Spring and Autumn Tower

The story of the Spring and Autumn Tower has been told and retold r centuries in rural areas of North China. After he captured Guan Yu, ao Cao plied his captive with beautiful ladies, good horses and gold, an effort to win Guan Yu's loyalty and have him forget his sworn other Liu Bei. All his efforts, however, proved fruitless to his great aggra-tion. An adviser suggested that Guan Yu be moved to a quiet house to live gether with his two sisters-in-law — Liu Bei's two wives and as time wore , love would strike root between Guan and the women. Disclosure of the cret love affair should then be flamed far and wide, inciting Liu Bei's wrath ainst Guan Yu. When that happened, Guan would be helpless and forced turn his loyalty to Cao Cao.

Cao Cao was elated and did as he was advised. Some days passed by d he asked guards planted in the house about the development of the lationship. It turned out contrary to his expectations. Actually, Guan was on guard from the very beginning. Fearing that trouble might entually arise as he was made to live in the solitary house with two autiful young women on hostile territory, he slept during the day on a ng bench and read the *Spring and Autumn Annals* with the help of can-elight at night. On occasions when the candles had burnt out, he ould read till morning by a fire built from wooden railings cut with his escent-moon blade. With time however, the smoke from the fire

1. Hua Tuo, a famous doctor in Chinese history, was put to death by Cao Cao and buried in the suburbs of Xuchang.

2. The stone carvings on the remaining walls that have apparently experienced long weathering suggests the long history of the Spring and Autumn Tower.

3. As expected, Guan Yu in this statue is portrayed with his eyes half-closed. People say it is a result of night-long readings of **The Spring and Autumn Annals.**

4. On the Baling Bridge, Guan Yu picked up the robe — a present from Cao Cao — with his sword and left Cao in search of his sworn brother.

5. This is said to be the Spring and Autumn Tower where Guan Yu read **The Spring and Autumn Annals** *throughout the nights.*

6. While a captive, Guan Yu was put into the same house with his two sisters-in-law by Cao Cao. To avoid creating gossip, he read throughout the night **The Spring and Autumn Annals** *under candlelight and slept during the day.*

Zhongmou: Guandu Battlefield Site

PHOTOS BY SHI BAOXIU

1

The highway stretching from Xuchang northward to Kaifeng approximately runs parallel with the route Cao Cao took in fighting Yuan Shao. The site of the Battle of Guandu is five kilometres from the county seat of Zhongmou, southwest of Kaifeng City.

Structures Representing the Battle of Guandu

When the car turns left off the state highway, it runs up to a square with towering shields featuring animal faces, spears, swords and halberds. These ancient weapons mark the entrance to the "Ancient Battlefield at Guandu" built with investment from farmers-turned-entrepreneurs. From this point, a straight road paved with cement extends one kilometre northward to a castle with colourful battle flags fluttering in the wind.

The farmers, taking advantage of the historic reputation of their hometown, employed modern techniques and materials to have ancient castles, passes and barracks built according to their personal design and imagination.

In the tall central military tent which is large enough for a circus to perform, the Battle of Guandu is represented with paintings and colour sculptures portraying episodes of the fight and major figures taking part in the battle, augmented with sound and lighting effects.

A five-metre-tall iron statue showing Cao Cao on horseback waving his sword stands impressively in the field west of the barracks. This is modelled on Lord Cao's Fort recorded in history books. The real fort was engulfed during the flood of 1938 when the Kuomintang forces destroyed the Yellow River bank in the hope of stopping the advance of the invading Japanese forces.

I circled the "ancient battlefield" looking carefully for a statue of Yuan Shao, but without any success. Apparently, supply and demand for certain heroes only had not merited the investment of a Yuan Shao statue.

Cao Cao's Success: Resourcefulness

At the time, Yuan Shao was in a favourable position as he controlled the vast land of four prefectures: Qingzhou, Youzhou, Bingzhou and Jizho with an army 100,000 strong. Cao Cao, in contrast, commanded an arm of only more than 30,000 men. The odds apparently were on the side Yuan Shao. Thanks to his astuteness and resourcefulness, as well as hi strong reliance on advice from men well-trained in political strategies t encourage generals and soldiers to fight, Cao Cao, held an edge ove Yuan. At a critical moment, Xu You, a senior adviser of Yuan, fled t serve Cao Cao who, overjoyed at Xu's coming, hurriedly rose to gree him outside the tent without bothering to wait and put on his shoe thus winning the loyalty of Xu. Xu in return offered the idea of settin fire to Yuan's granary in Wuchao. The move greatly shook the conf dence of Yuan's army which fled in total defeat after suffering death an casualties of more than 70,000 men. Unable to accept the defeat, Yua fell fatally sick and soon died from vomiting blood.

For Cao Cao, this epoch-making victory laid the foundation for un fying the north and establishing the State of Wei ruled by the Cao cla

1. The noble descendant, Yuan Shao who ruled the area covering presen day Hebei, Shanxi and Shandong provinces was once the most powerf warlord of the time. His one obvious weak point was that he was alwa suspicious of others and over-sure of himself. He was more inclined to b lieve in the flattery of sycophants than honest advice by loyal people. Su characteristics made it impossible for him to avoid the fatal defeat at th Battle of Guandu, no matter how strong his army was and how well it w supplied logistically.

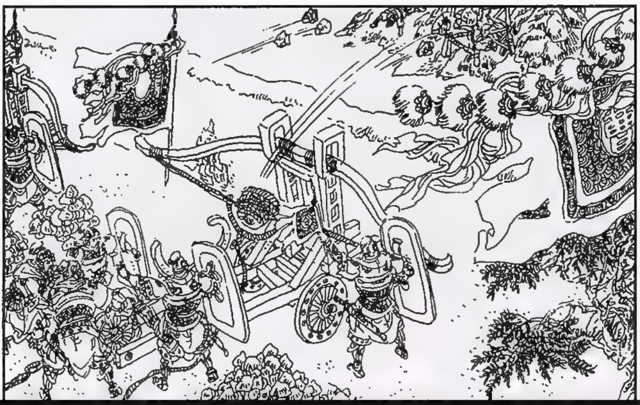
2. Cao Cao had many stone-throwi carts built which destroyed the solid ca tle walls of Yuan Shao.

3. This presents a scene from the Battle Guandu as Cao Cao victoriously sat his horse, waving his sword on Lo Cao's Fort (by Yu Deshui).

4. Towering castles and forts built wi modern materials

5. The outer gate of the "Ancient Battl field at Guandu" stands near the highw between Zhengzhou and Kaifeng.

6. The "Ancient Battlefield of Guand built by farmer-entrepreneurs may well grandeur than the real thing in history.



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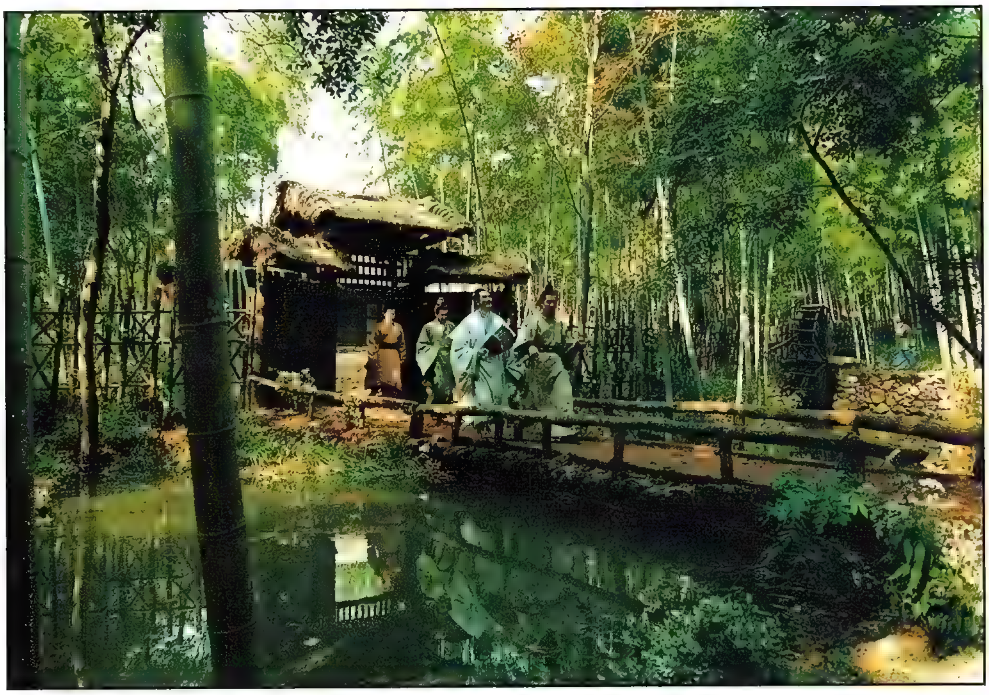
Nanyang and Xiangyang: The Zhuge Debate

PHOTOS BY XIE GUANGHUI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Having inflicted a decisive blow on the once powerful warlord Yuan Shao at the Battle of Guandu, Cao Cao immediately turned to wipe out other warlord forces.

Liu Bei Pays Three Visits to Zhuge Liang at the Thatched Hut

Liu Bei who had fled to Jingzhou by taking advantage of the fighting between Cao Cao and Yuan Shao, knew that once Cao Cao had wiped out the remnant forces of Yuan, he would turn southward and Liu would be the first victim of the onslaught. Liu was a man who knew his own strength and weaknesses. He summed up the experiences of the battles he had engaged in after joining the suppression of the Yellow Turban Army and found that he had made more losses than victories while living at the mercy of stronger warlords. The reason was very simple: though he had under his command a contingent of gallant generals, he was in dire need of an effective strategist. He was fortunate to have the help of Xu Shu who was full of good strategies, but Xu had switched loyalty. Xu, however, offered the parting words that Zhuge Liang was an unusual strategist, So Liu went three times to the thatched hut where Zhuge was staying as a recluse, earnestly begging Zhuge Liang to leave the mountain hut to help him. This event gave birth to the famous "Dialogue at Longzhong" which accurately predicted the future political situation in the country.

The Wolong Ridge in Nanyang

Over 1,600 years have gone by since Liu Bei took his two sworn brothers, Guan Yu and Zhang Fei, on three visits to Zhuge Liang. The long history invariably has given rise to many variations of the event. The question of just exactly where the thatched hut of Zhuge Liang was, for instance, has been the subject of over 1,000-year-long argument. Eventually two schools emerged pinpointing the place to be in Nanyang, southwestern Henan, and Xiangyang in northern Hubei Luckily for today's fans of the three kingdom's story, the mystery gave us an opportunity to visit both places.

My trip turned south at Guandu, through Zhengzhou, to Xuchang and turned west to Pingdingshan City. After lunch, I continued southwest and arrived at Nanyang City before supper. That night I checked into the Nanyang Guesthouse.

Next morning I boarded a shuttle bus from the city district to Wolong (Crouching Dragon) Ridge. Just over 10 minutes later, we arrived at a mountain lying between the Zifeng Mountain and Baihe River. In the thick green trees is an ancient structure — the Shrine o Marquis Wu (Zhuge Liang's posthumous title) at Wolong Ridge. This temple was rebuilt during the Qing Dynasty on the foundations of the same temple erected during the Yuan and Ming periods.

Inside many of the temple's halls as expected, are a sitting statue o Zhuge Liang holding his ubiquitous goose-feather fan, statues and portraits of generals and ministers of the State of Shu. The temple also

1. After paying three sincere visits, Liu Bei succeeded in obtaining the advice of the talented, Zhuge Liang, who was extremely well-versed in political and military affairs, ancient astronomy and geography. From then on Liu Bei steadily embarked on a road to build an independent and a strong state.

2. This mud sculpture of Liu Bei shows him listening attentively like a pupil to the enlightening teachings of Zhuge Liang in the Three-Visit Hall a Wolong Ridge in Nanyang.

3. People in China have such a high respect for Zhuge Liang that to som people he seems to be nothing short of a god.

4. In front of the former residence of Zhuge Liang, a tour guide tells th audience that it is still a mystery as to where exactly Zhuge Liang onc tilled land in Nanyang.

5. Zhuge Liang as portrayed in the Shrine of Marquis Wu in Nanyang

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features replica structures such as the Three-Visit Hall, Horse-Tethering Pavilion, Thatched Pavilion, Little Rainbow Bridge, Wild Cloud Temple, Zhuge's Water Well, Reading Terrace, Farming Pavilion, a stone tablet bearing the first and second requests for going into battle against the Wei troops given by Zhuge Liang and later written down by Yue Fei (1103-1142), the most well-known loyal general of the Southern Song Dynasty. These two pieces fully revealing Zhuge's lofty aspirations can also be seen in temples elsewhere in China dedicated to Zhuge, but the most ancient and authoritative ones are undoubtedly kept in the temple here.

Xiangyang: The "Dragon Also Crouched" Here

Xinye which was where Liu Bei set off on his famous three visits to Zhuge Liang is now accessible by a highway, so we took a bus at Nanyang.

Thirteen kilometres west of Xiangfan City is a quiet valley of trees enclosed by hills from all sides. Most historians conjecture that this is the place once called Longzhong where Zhuge Liang stayed as a youth.

According to historical documents, when he was 17 years old, Zhuge Liang came with his brother to this mountain forest to open up virgin land and build thatched huts, leading a simple and hard life as a recluse. He had lived here for 10 years when Liu Bei visited him and asked for his help.

I walked on mountain staircases towards the "original residence" of Zhuge Liang hidden in the woods. The first thing that met my eye was a black stone archway much taller than the one in Nanyang that spanned across the mountain path. Three big characters on the archway announced: Ancient Longzhong. Standing on an elevated place on the path, I saw Daqi (Big Flag), Dule (Solitary Joy) and the Longshan hills all covered with green trees and plants. At the east edge of the hills, the Hanshui River twisted its way into the distance.... which all squarely coincided with the descriptions in a poem found in *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*.

The tree-shaded path on the right of the mountain path, with staircases, leads to the Dongshan Ridge where the Wolong Teahouse serves visitors with Cloud and Mist Tea stewed with spring water from the Old Dragon's Cave. Further ahead from the teahouse is the reputed Three-Visit Hall.

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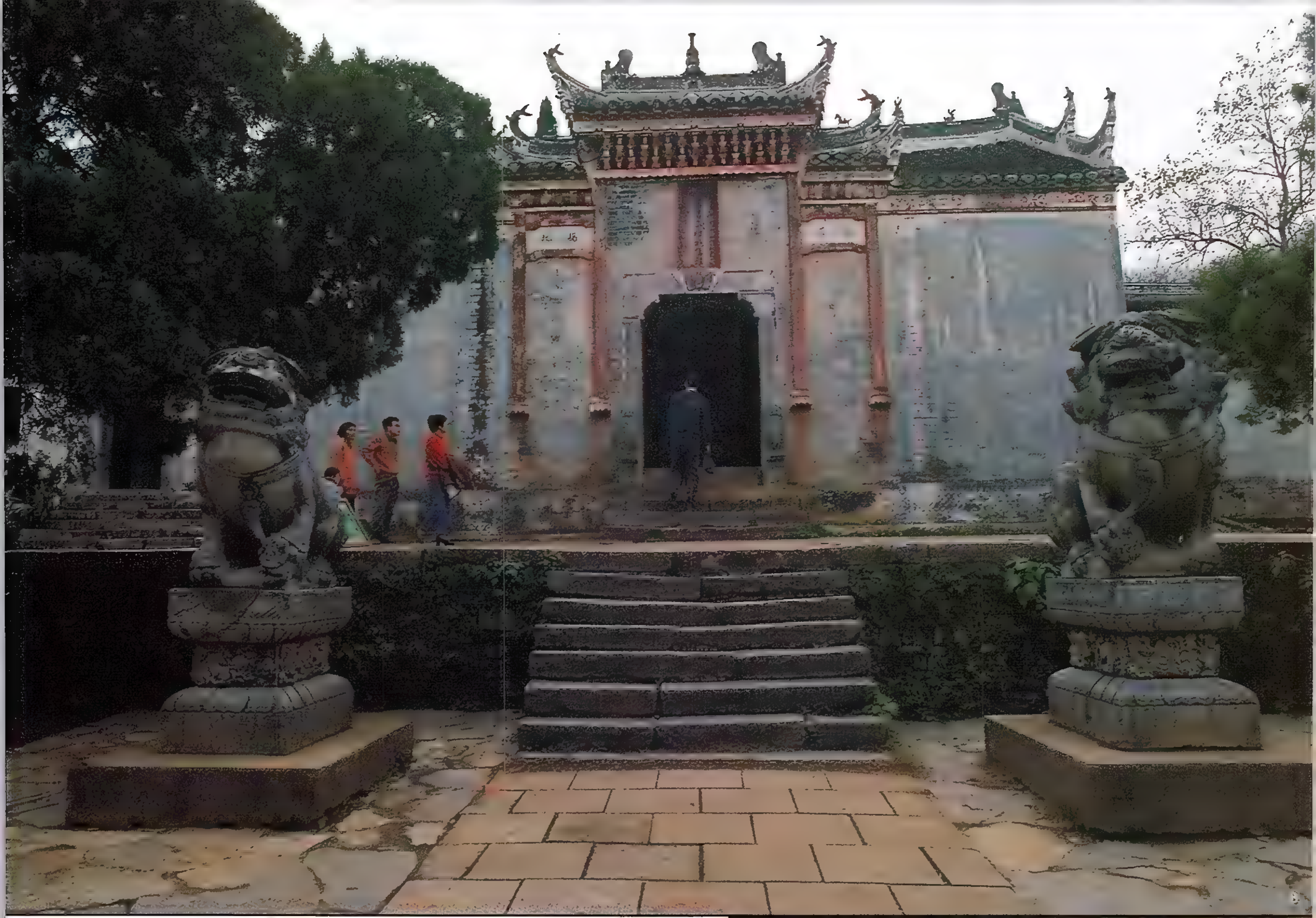

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1. *Xu Shu was the military adviser who helped Liu Bei win the first victory without relying on other warlords, but he was lured away by Cao Cao. This is said to be the former residence of Xu Shu in Xiangyang.*
2. *The ancient stone archway at Longzhong*
3. *Though it is less than 50 kilometres between Longzhong and Nanyang, the temples have marked differences in architectural styles.*
4. *Guan Yu and Zhang Fei were tired of repeatedly coming with Liu Bei to visit a young scholar named Zhuge Liang and twice finding him not at home.*
5. *The statue of Zhuge Liang in the Shrine of Marquis Wu at Longzhong in Xiangyang*

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The History of the Thatched Hut

On the mountain slope behind the Three-Visit Hall, stands the Thatched Hut Pavilion. The hut used to serve as both the study and bedroom for Zhuge Liang. According to the *Annals of Xiangyang County*, the original thatched hut stood near the present pavilion. During the Ming Dynasty, Prince Zhu Jianshu was enfeoffed with Xianyang City. Believing that the former residence of Zhuge Liang was built on an auspicious site, he had the thatched hut pulled down and had his own tomb constructed there instead, well in advance of his death.

Occupying a fortunate spot, however, did not bring him good luck. Years after he was buried there, all the ground structures of the mausoleum were destroyed by Li Zicheng who rose in rebellion against the Ming Dynasty, after Li took Xiangyang. He reduced the place to an earth mound but very soon Li Zicheng disappeared from history. The common people maintained their love for Zhuge Liang and had a pavilion built where he used to live, as a symbol of his former residence.

At Longzhong, I also saw the Zhuge's Water Well, the Old Dragon's Cave which is also called Zhuge's Spring; Zhuge's Farmland, Wild Cloud Temple and Little Rainbow Bridge. It is not important to prove whether these sites are genuine or not, for their real significance lies in the fact that their construction and maintenance over the centuries till this day stand as a testimony to people's respect and memory of the unusually talented Zhuge Liang, who became Liu Bei's Commander-in-Chief for 27 years and helped him to set up a well-governed kingdom (now Sichuan Province).

Translated by Huang Youyi

1. After recommending Zhuge Liang to Liu Bei, Xu Shu also suggested that he enlist the help of a talented man called Shui Jing whose hometown was near Longzhong.

2. Though he lived as a recluse in the hills at Longzhong, Zhuge Liang maintained a close watch on the developments in the country. He was thus able to present Liu Bei with his well-thought strategies.

3. This is the well where Zhuge Liang was said to have gathered water.

4. In front of the Three-Visit Hall at Longzhong, the chair, an imitation of the one belonging to Zhuge Liang, serves as a tool for the photographer to make money.

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Cruising Through the Three Gorges Aboard a Luxurious Tourist Boat

ARTICLE BY LI LIANG

Journalists and tourist agents from Hong Kong and Taiwan on board a ferry boat on the Yangtse River (by Zhao Wei)

The luxurious Splendid China *plies along the "golden waterway" of the Yangtse River (by Dong Weining).*

The magnificent scenery of the Three Gorges is best enjoyed on a tourist boat (by Liu Shaoxuan).

1

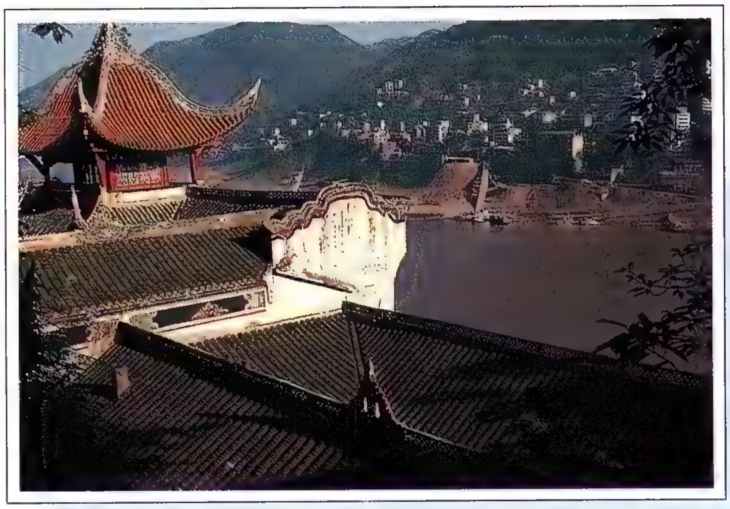
With more than 100 passengers on board the luxurious tourist boat, *Splendid China*, gently steamed away from Chaotianmen Wharf in Chongqing, Sichuan Province, and started a four-day and three-night cruise through the Three Gorges of the Yangtse River from November 28 to December 1, 1994.

In recent years, especially since the launching of the Three Gorges water conservancy project, the Three Gorges of the Yangtse River have caught the attention of more and more people. Batch after batch of tourists, both Chinese and foreign, eagerly come to catch a last glimpse of the Three Gorges and the wonderful scenery along the river before they are submerged upon the completion of the gigantic dam across the river. As a result, this "golden waterway" is now being plied by a steady stream of excursion ships, large and small, fully loaded with tourists.

A Colourful Tour by Boat and on Shore

The *Splendid China* is a new-generation luxurious tourist boat built by the China Travel Service (Hong Kong) Ltd. at the cost of tens of millions of dollars and jointly run by the Travel Service and the Hubei Yangtse River Tourist Boat Company. Since its maiden voyage in February 1994, the boat's first-class facilities and service have won unanimous approval from those who have travelled on it.

Travelling on board *Splendid China* is like staying in a four-star floating hotel. From the outside, the boat looks like a classically styled Chinese pleasure boat. At night, she is like a floating Chinese palace. The *Splendid China* is one of the tourist boats cruising through the Three Gorges today that has the most spacious and comfortable cabins and advanced facilities. The boat is equipped with a satellite communications system, satellite TV reception system, closed-circuit TV, Hi-Fi system as well as many other facilities, including massaging pools, sauna, gym, clinic, recreation room, restaurants, shopping arcade, business centre, karaoke night club, beauty salon, bars, dance hall and massage rooms, which provide every kind of recreation and service to enrich the voyage on the river.



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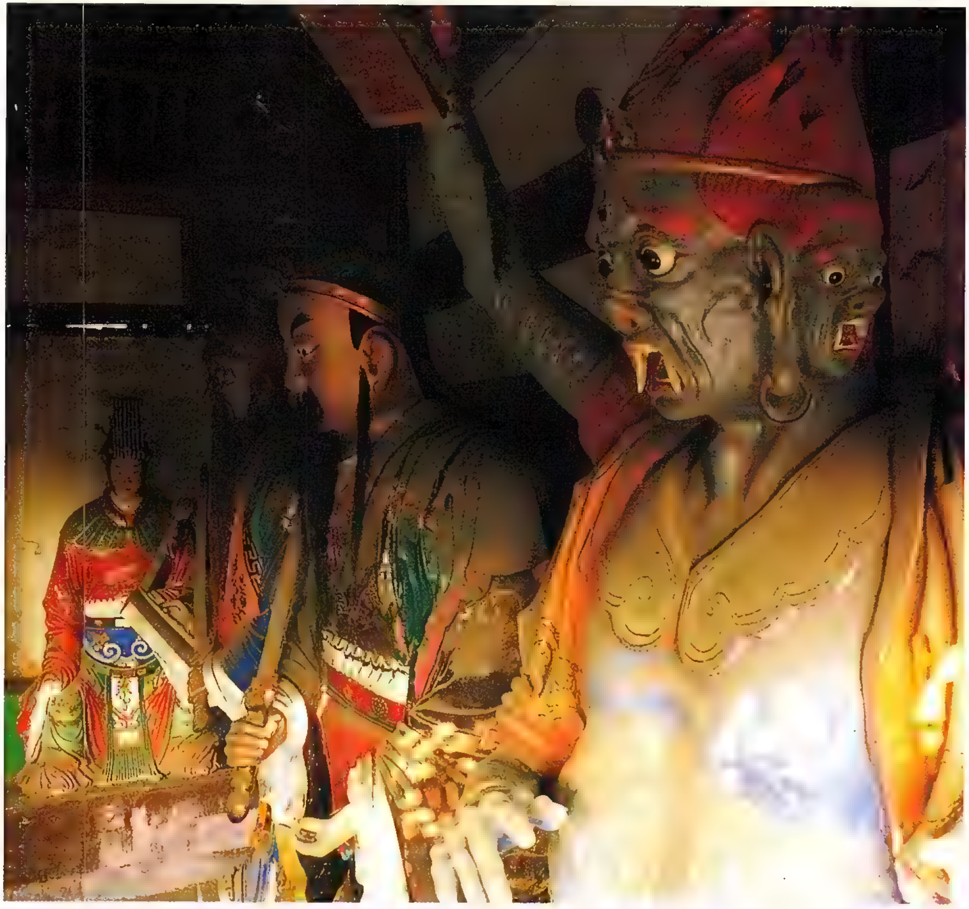
Most satisfactory to the passengers are the Splendid China's spacious fore and aft sight-seeng decks, where all the boat passengers can east their eyes without any obstruction on the xciting scenery on both sides of the gorges in very direction. One of the advantages of travlling through the Yangtse gorges by boat is hat one can enjoy the enchanting scenery while itting leisurely on the boat. As the boat moves orward, the scenery is constantly changing nd offers endlessly new angles. Along the vay, the boat drops anchor at several places of nterest, where passengers can go ashore and isit famous spots and historical sites.

The Traditional "Ghost Culture" of Fengdu, the "Ghost City"

Leaving Chongqing at 8:30 a.m., the boat ruised down the Yangtse and reached the own of Fengdu on the north bank of the river t 3:00 p.m. We went ashore to see the "Ghost City" as Fengdu is known.

Unlike the nether world in the legends, the Ghost City" of Fengdu is located high on Aingshan Mountain. As soon as we stepped nto the wharf, we saw a big ghost head susended in the air on the river bank. We were old that it was the emblem of the city of engdu. A mini-bus took us from the wharf to he foot of Mingshan Mountain in less than five ninutes. Along the way, we saw the special features of the "Ghost City" almost everywhere. here were, for example, the Ghost City Resaurant, Ghost City Hotel and Ghost City eauty Parlour along the streets and alleys. oods bearing the "Ghost City" brand name vere even more numerous. There were "Ghost ity" brand dried beef, "Ghost City" brand fernented bean curd and "Ghost City" brand lonevity cakes. Even the street lamps were haped like the tall and pointed hats worn by he ghosts in the legendary nether world. The tmosphere of the nether world was further eniched by lamp shades which were covered vith red cloth.

Interestingly, the road leading to the ghost ountry did not descend as it was described in egends. Here one had to climb a winding flight f more than 600 stone steps to reach there. On ither side of the steps were temples, terraces nd pavilions. Since a simple cableway had been uilt, we were brought to the "nether world" in o time. Following our tour guide, we visited the Iopeless Bridge, Gate to the Nether World, ighteen-Stratum Hell and Home-Viewing Terace. The lady tour guide told us that since the Iopeless Bridge leads to the nether world, if one vas to cross it to the other side without returnng, one must not look back while crossing it, nor nswer a call of one's name and cross it in three ig strides. If a loving couple crossed the bridge and in hand, they would be husband and wife gain in their next lives. When entering the Gate the Nether World, men must enter with the ft foot forward and women with the right. As oon as she had finished, a couple from our group ished over the bridge hand in hand and aroused a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1. Unusually structured Shibaozhai buildings on the bank of the Yangtse River (by Chan Yat Nin)

2. Zhang Fei's Temple in Yunyang is a tourist attraction by the Yangtse River (by Chan Yat Nin).

3. A person who can stand steadily on one foot on the stone column in front of the Hall of the King of Hell is a kind-hearted person (by Zhao Wei).

4. The three-headed, six-armed and ferocious-featured ghost in the Hall of the King of Hell is really terrifying (by Chan Yat Nin).

5. Souvenir stalls in the "Ghost City" (by Zhao Wei)

5

roar of laughter. As we laughed and chatted, we light-heartedly crossed the legendary scary Hopeless Bridge and Gate to the Nether World.

On the other side of the Gate to the Nether World, we headed straight for the Hall of the King of Hell. The Eighteen-Stratum Hell on either side of the hall gave us the most unforgettable impressions. The sight of the ghost wardens sculptured in clay was absolutely terrifying. Cruel punishments were meted out to those who had done evil in their lives. Punishments included throwing the culprit onto a mountain bristling with knifes or into a sea of fire; having skin and tendons removed, heart gouged out and tongue cut off; being thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil or having one's body sawn into pieces. Although these punishments were frightening, the Nether World demonstrates a clear distinction between right and wrong, good and evil, love and hatred, where the good are rewarded with good, and evil with evil, and where those who are being punished are all inveterate criminals who do not deserve the least sympathy. The place conveys in full the significance of the Chinese traditional "ghost culture", in which good and evil are clearly distinguished.

When we climbed to the Home-Viewing Terrace and looked around, we could see the high and low buildings of the ancient city of Fengdu alive with activities by the riverside. We were told that upon the completion of the dam, the old county seat would be submerged. The city of Fengdu will therefore be among the first to move across to Wangjiadu on the opposite bank of the river, but the sights on top of Mingshan Mountain would be untouched. The "Ghost City" would then be

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surrounded by water and reached directly by boat without climbing the stone steps or using the cableway.

Qutang and Wuxia Gorges: Like a Picture Gallery

After passing Fengjie in Sichuan Province, the boat steamed into the Three Gorges of the Yangtse River.

As soon as the boat entered Qutang Gorge at dawn, all the passengers got up and climbed to the sight-seeing decks to see the magnificent sights on either side of the gorge. The entrance to the gorge, known as Kuimen Gate and "the most magnificent natural sight in the world", was flanked by two cliffs standing face to face. The cliffs rose perpendicularly towards the sky and looked as if they had been hewn with an axe. The river was squeezed into a narrow channel as it roared boisterously through the "gate". This was the shortest, narrowest and the most dangerous section of the Three Gorges. The boat steered through the turbulent waves as if between two rocky walls.

The next section of river was Wuxia Gorge, the most beautiful section of the Three Gorges, where the mountains, river, woods and caves were juxtaposed to form the most captivating natural sights. The serried green mountain peaks unfold like painted screens on both sides of the river. As the boat picked its way forward, following the winding course of the river, we felt as if we were wandering through a gallery of landscape paintings. Twelve of the mountain peaks, rising between 800 and 1,200 metres above water level, on either side of the river are known for their unusual and wonderful shapes. The most famous one is the Shennü (Fairy) Peak, which stands solitary like a goddess enshrouded in mists and clouds. With the completion of the dam, the water level of the reservoir will rise just to the feet of the goddess. She will then seem to be stepping down to the water edge to greet passengers on the river.

4

The Shennong Stream and a Cruise on Primitive Boats

After passing Shennü Peak and entering Hubei Province, the boat moored at Badong in he morning. We went to shore and were aken by a bus to Yeziba in the upper reaches of the Shennong Stream, where we were to cruise down the stream in small boats.

The Shennong Stream originates from the southern foothills of the main peak in the famous Shennongjia Nature Reserve in Hubei Province and empties into the Yangtse River at he eastern entrance to Wuxia Gorge in Badong. More than 60 kilometres in total ength, the Shennong Stream flows from north o south through a deep gorge divided into hree sections – Mianzhu, Yingwu and Longchangdong, and is known for its dangerous errain and elegant and magnificent scenery.

At the starting point of the cruise down the

1. Remains of an ancient plank path carved along the cliff face in Qutang Gorge (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. Age-old rocks on the bank of the river between Qutang and Wuxia gorges (by Chan Yat Nin)
3. The Lesser Three Gorges on the Daning River is a tourist attraction (by Chan Yat Nin).
4. A long and steep flight of stone steps leads from the jetty to the town of Wanxian (by Chan Yat Nin).
5. A momentary beautiful sight (by Chan Yat Nin)

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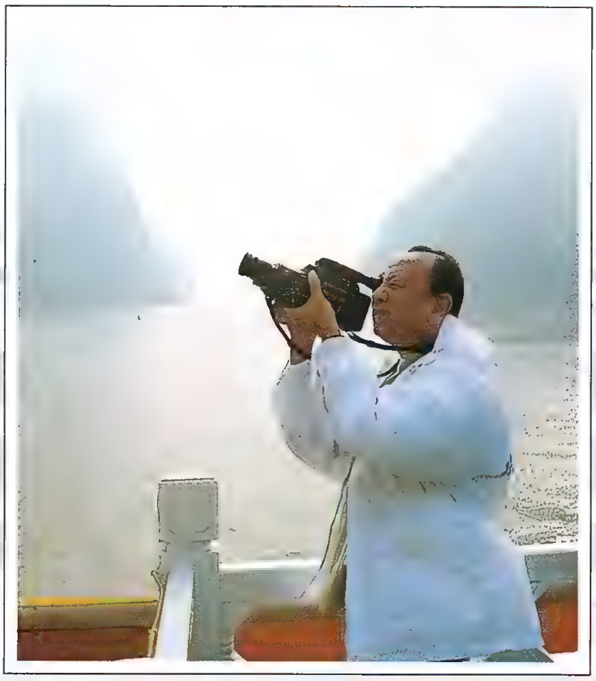

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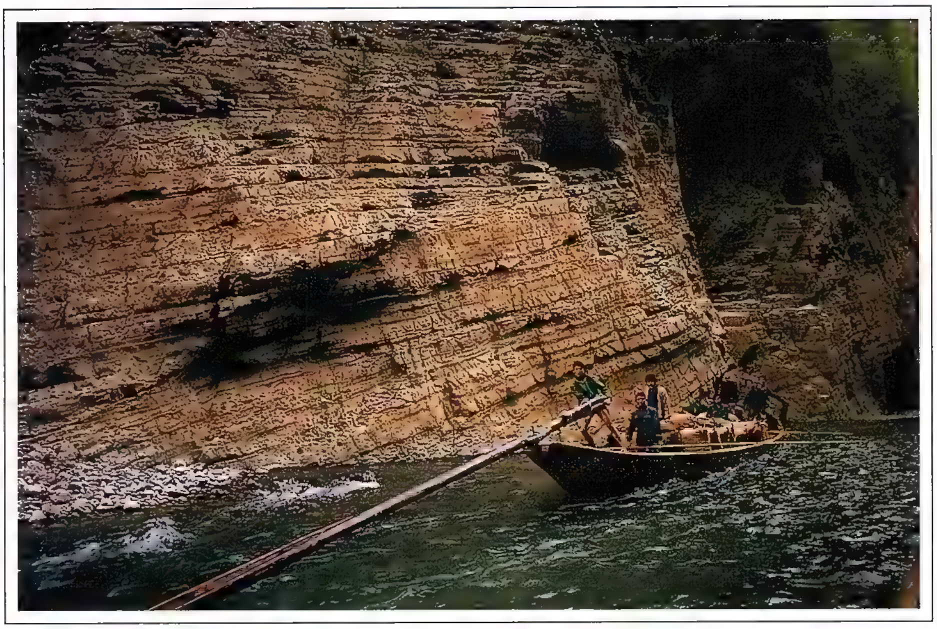

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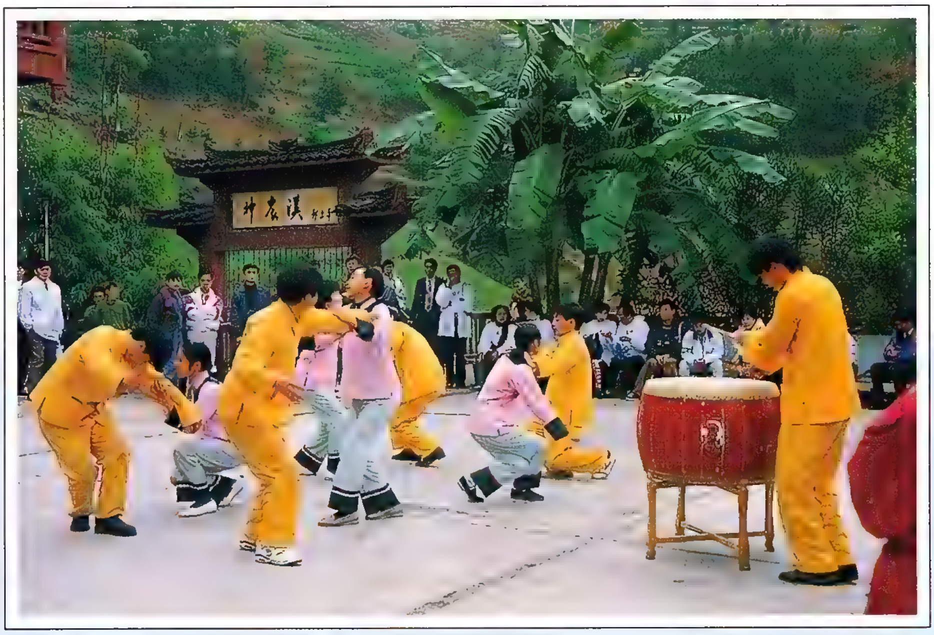

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Shennong Stream at Yeziba, we boarded several traditional "pea shell" boats and started downstream into Yingwu Gorge. The "pea shell" boat is a small wooden boat of the local Tujia nationality. It is pointed at the stem and stern and broad in the middle, can carry six passengers and is propelled by a boatman with a long pole.

The stream follows a zigzag course through several dozen bends and shoals which may be long or short and where the waters may be placid or turbulent. Sometimes when our boat floated past a shoal, the water was less than half a metre deep and the pebbles at the bottom of the stream were clearly visible. When going over a rapid shoal, the boatman had to prop his long pole against the cliff face to fight the way forward. The "pea shell" boat would then speed forward like an arrow, throwing a blinding spray of water. I was alarming but safe and offers those on board a thrilling experience in a contes against nature. The boat soon reached deep water, where the stream broadened and became deep blue. As the flow became gentle people began to relax and feel immensely refreshed.

The scenery in every section of the gorge is still in its natural state, untouched by man Occasionally there may be a village or twc and a few farm houses. The scenery is enchantingly idyllic. Sometimes a boat can be seen going upstream towed by trackers, thei rustic work songs echoing in the gorge.

We paused for a while at Longchuanh Village and enjoyed a true farmer's meal in a restaurant housed in a Tujia-style building with the upper storey protruding forward After the meal, we watched with interest an arm-swinging dance performed by young Tujia dancers on the empty lot beside the restaurant. Stepping onto the "pea shell" boat again, we continued our cruise toward Longchangtong Gorge. Along the way, ou tour guide pointed out to us the remains of an ancient plank path built along a cliff face and of coffins suspended on the cliff face. She also taught us to sing folk songs of the Tujia nationality. The cruise offered us an unusual opportunity to wander through an area of primitive beauty, natural wonders and totally unpolluted air and water.

Qu Yuan's Shrine and a Dragon Boat Race

In the evening, the tourist boat moored alongside the wharf in Zigui at the western entrance to Xiling Gorge. After supper, an evening party was held on board in the dance hall on the fifth deck. A local troupe came on board to give a song and dance performance. Since Zigui was the hometown of the great ancient poet Qu Yuan of the State of Chu, many of the items performed were associated with Chu culture. There were also graceful contemporary dances as well as work songs of boat trackers sung by old trackers who had actually spent several decades of their lives struggling against the dangerous rapids and turbulent waves of the Three Gorges. The songs sung by the trackers were vigorous, bold and deeply moving, and were originally sung by the trackers when the trackers towed their boats upstream against the swift Yangtse current.

The following morning, a bus took us to the town of Zigui to visit Qu Yuan's Shrine. The shrine was reconstructed at the present spot more than ten years ago, when the Gezhouba Dam was built downstream. We were told that when the Three Gorges project was completed, the whole town of Zigui would be submerged and Qu Yuan's Shrine would have to be moved again to a still higher place.

A tall bronze statue of Qu Yuan stood in the spacious yard of the shrine. The poet was dressed in an official's robe with a long sword suspended at his waist. His eyes gazed afar as if he was reciting a poem. Behind the statue was Qu Yuan Memorial Hall, where artifacts and photographs about the life of the poet and his works were on display.

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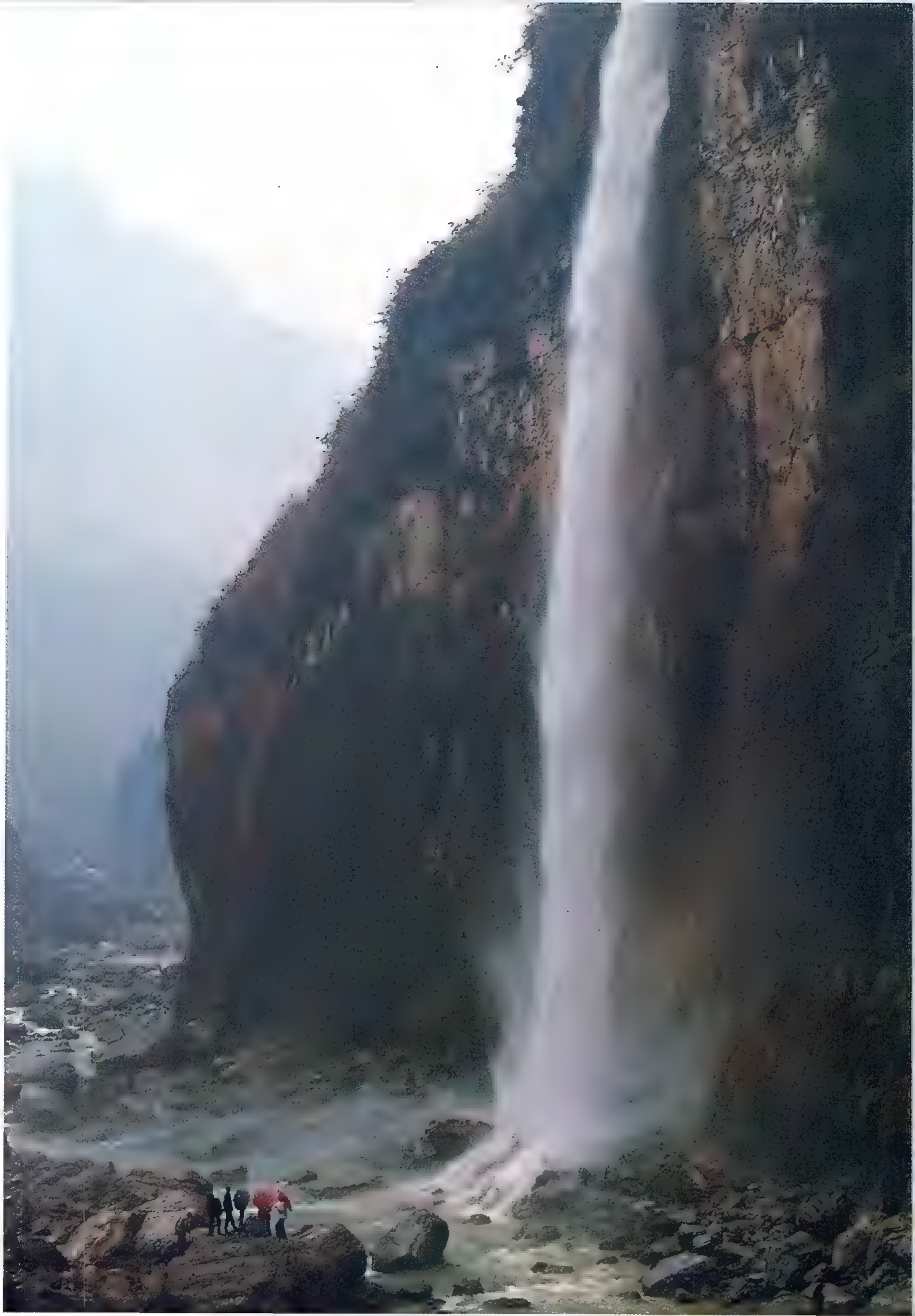

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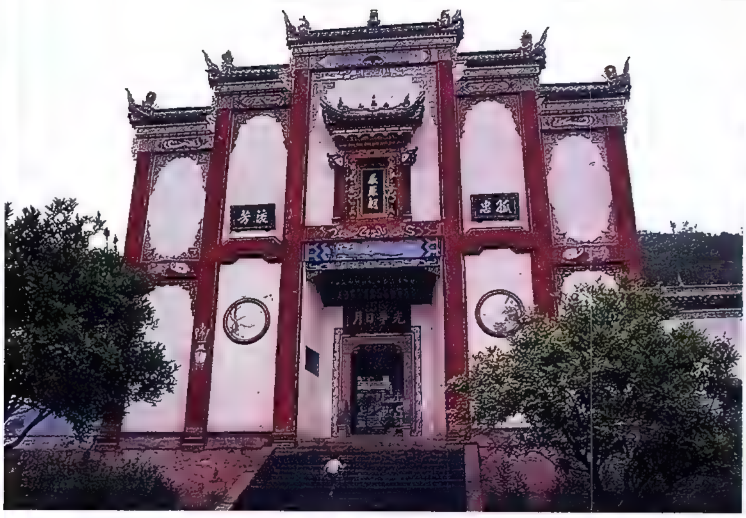

1. A novel dragon-boat race on the Yangtse River. The oarsmen are tourists (by Zhao Wei).
2. Traditional food transportation by boat on Shennong Stream: a Tujian boatman masters the capricious waters of a deep gorge. Tourists can also ride the rapids on board pea shell boats from Yeziba.
3. A national dance performed by young Tujia performers at Dragon Boat Village on the bank of Shennong Stream (by Zhao Wei)
4. A stream rushes down from the Ox Liver and Horse Lung Cliff in Xiling Gorge (by Yu Daike).
5. The imposing gate structure of Qu Yuan's Shrine is traditional in style (by Chan Yat Nin).

1

1. A rainbow in Xiling Gorge gives a mystic touch to the Three Gorges (by Gao Yuan).
2. Watching the boat passing the sluice gate at Gezhou Dam from the boat's sightseeing deck (by Zhao Wei)
3. Rock samples obtained from Zhongbao Island, the site of the future Three Gorges Dam (by Cai Xingmin)
4. Nanjin Pass in Yichang is the eastern entrance to the Three Gorges (by Peng Zhen Ge).
5. Singers and dancers from Zigui give a performance on board the tourist boat (by Zhao Wei).

2

After visiting Qu Yuan's Shrine, we came to the riverside to watch an out of season dragon boat race. A dragon boat race is usually held during the Dragon Boat Festival on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month. This race was arranged specially for tourists, who not only watch the race, but also wish to take part in it. We divided ourselves into several groups. After tying life jackets on ourselves, each group boarded a beautifully decorated dragon boat. At the order of a veteran boatman who had given a performance on the tourist boat and now served as the coxswain, we and started to work the oars. With water splashing and cheers from those on shore echoing, we sped forward amidst laughter and shouts. The winners were given a silk banner as an award and souvenir.

At the Construction Site of the Three Gorges Dam

The boat cruised further eastward into Xiling Gorge. With serried peaks on either side of the gorge, this is a picturesque section of the river. As we approached Sandouping, the future site of the Three Gorges Dam, we could see excavators, bulldozers and heavy trucks busily at work in the dam area, which

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extended for more than 10 kilometres. Zhongbao Island, where the dam was to stand near of the southern bank, was being levelled.

After passing Nanjinge, the eastern entrance to the Three Gorges, the river gradually widens. The Gezhouba Water Conservancy Work, the first dam on the long Yangtse River, soon came into sight. The *Splendid China* steered into a narrow channel which contains a lock. This is a world-class ship lock. Its two lock gates are 34 metres high, the height of an 11-storey building. After the water level was adjusted by the control room, the boat came out of the other side of the lock and steered downstream towards Yichang.

Yichang on the north bank of the river near the eastern entrance to the Yangtse gorges is known as the Gate to the Three Gorges. In the city of Yichang, we saw a model of the Gezhouba Water Conservancy Work and visited the China Sturgeon Aquarium.

On the fourth day of the tour, when the tourist boat came alongside at Chenglingji, we went to see Lake Dongting and the historically famous Yueyang Pavilion. Unfortunately, the weather was not ideal. Visibility was poor because the lake was obscured by mists.

The tourist boat arrived at Wuhan, the terminal of the tour late in the evening. A magnificent farewell dinner given by the skipper marked the end of the tour.

Translated by Tang Bowen

5

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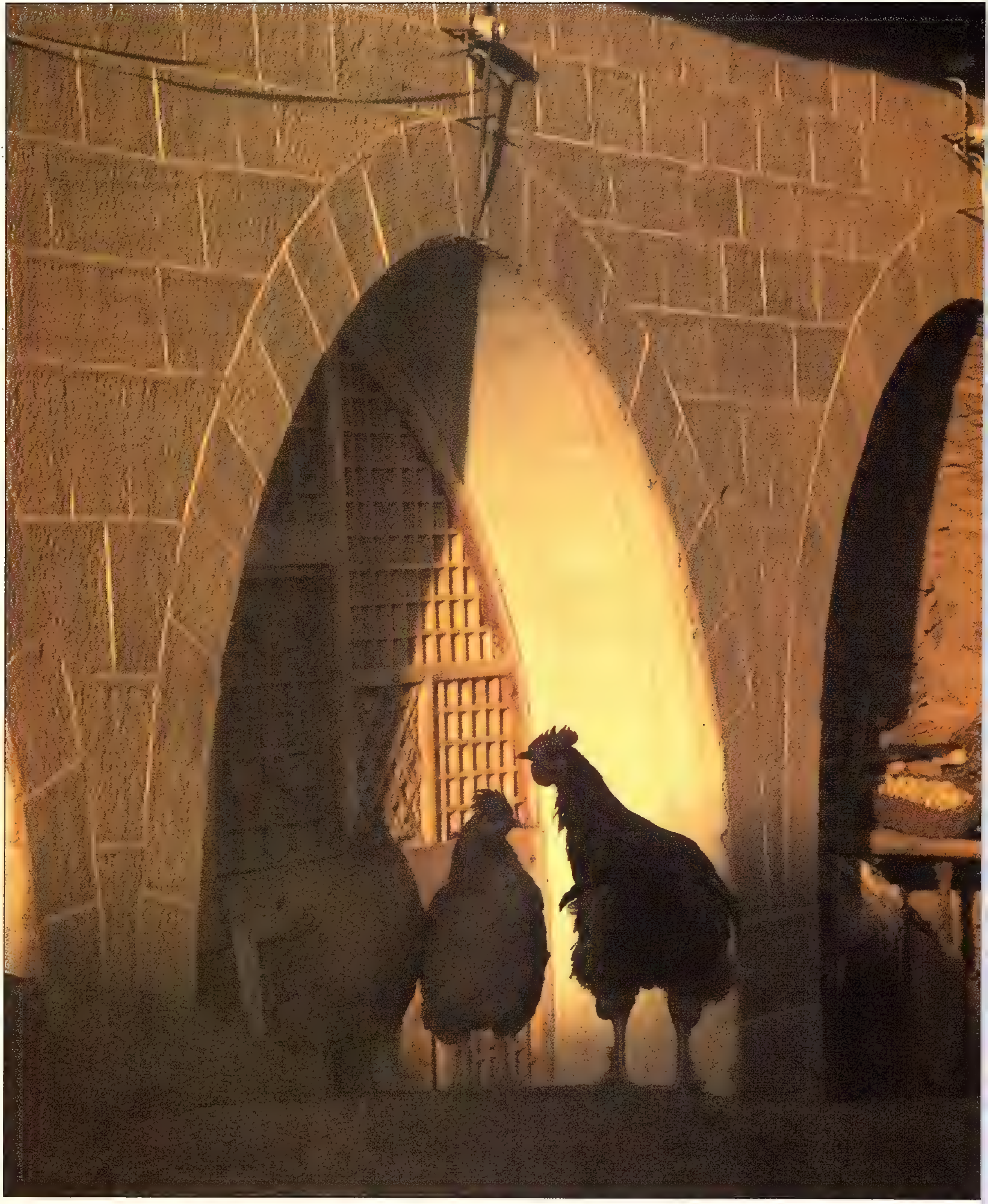
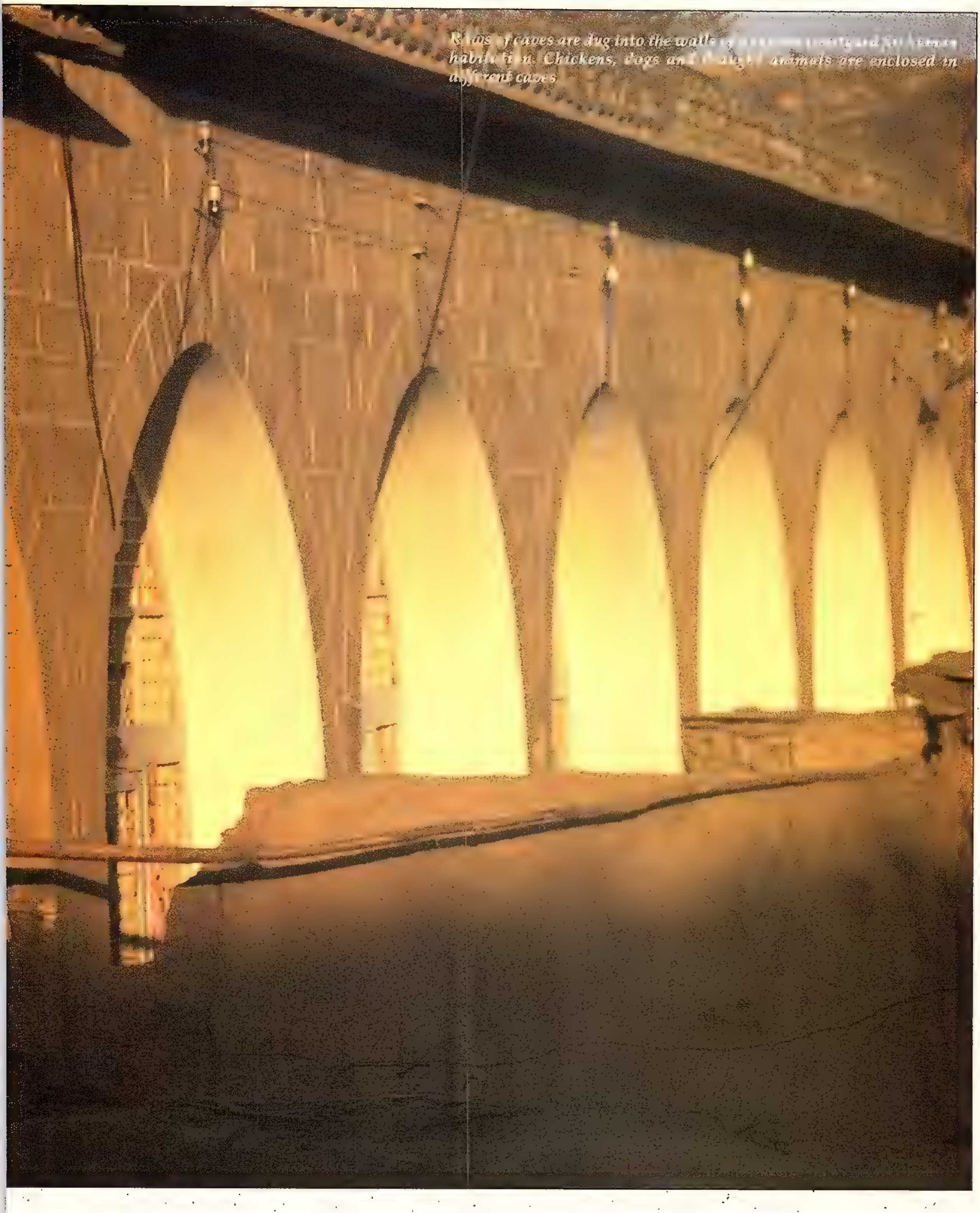


Underground Cave Dwellings

– Homes in Pinglu County, Shanxi Province

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY SHAN XIAOGANG



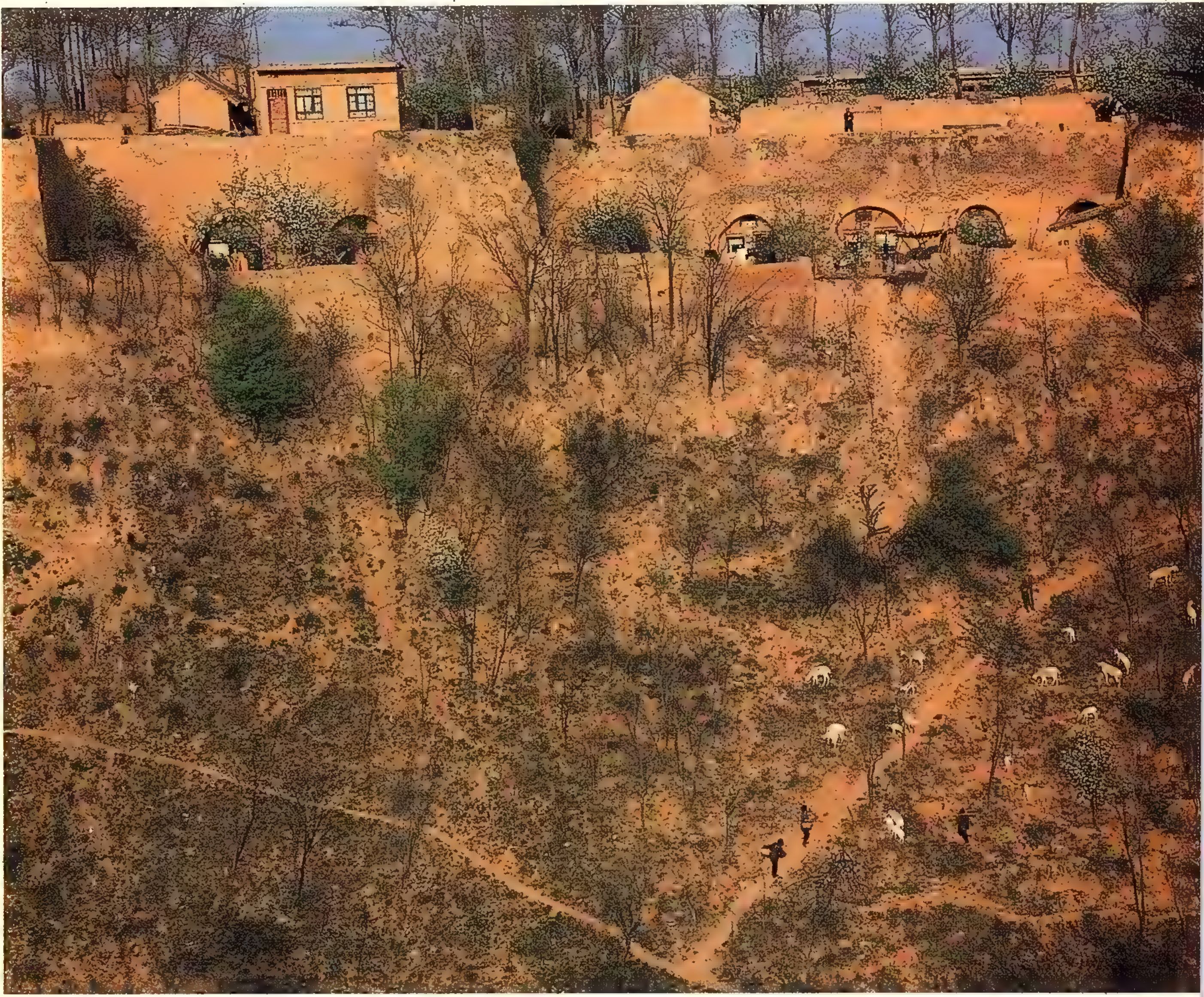
Rows of caves are dug into the walls of [illegible] courtyard for human habitation. Chickens, dogs and [illegible] animals are enclosed in different caves.

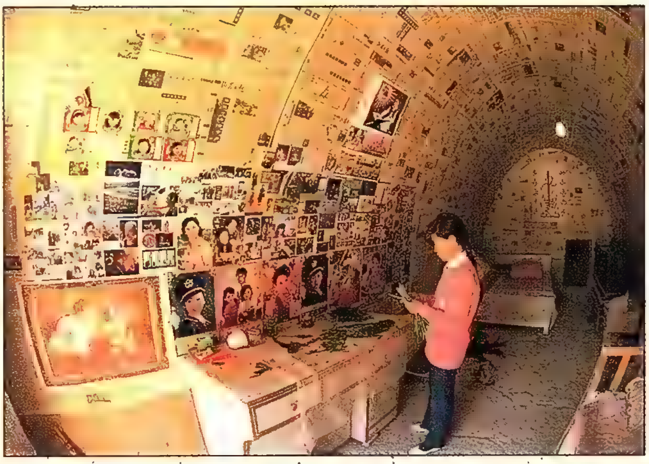
The cave dwellings on the loess plateau in northern China are akin to caves which provided shelter for rimitive people thousands of years ago. People who have isited the Yellow River valley have probably noticed cave lwellings which are dug into the side of a loess gully ormed by long years of erosion by rainwater. The entrance to one of these caves is usually framed with bricks. f there is empty space in front of the cave, it is fenced off vith a wall of yellow earth and converted into a yard.

Cave dwellings of this type still exist in many villages n Gansu, Shaanxi, Henan and Shanxi provinces. How-ver, few people have heard about the underground cave dwellings. These cave homes, which are called "cave dwellings in a sunken courtyard", are few in number and most of them have been replaced by brick houses built by farmers who are now better off. The best preserved "sunken courtyard" cave homes are to be found in Pinglu County in Shanxi Province, and are also found in Sanmenxia in Henan Province, Yongshou County in Shaanxi Province and Dongzhiyuan in Gansu Province.

Sunken Courtyard

Pinglu County, in the southernmost part of Shanxi Province near the Shanxi-Henan border and close to the





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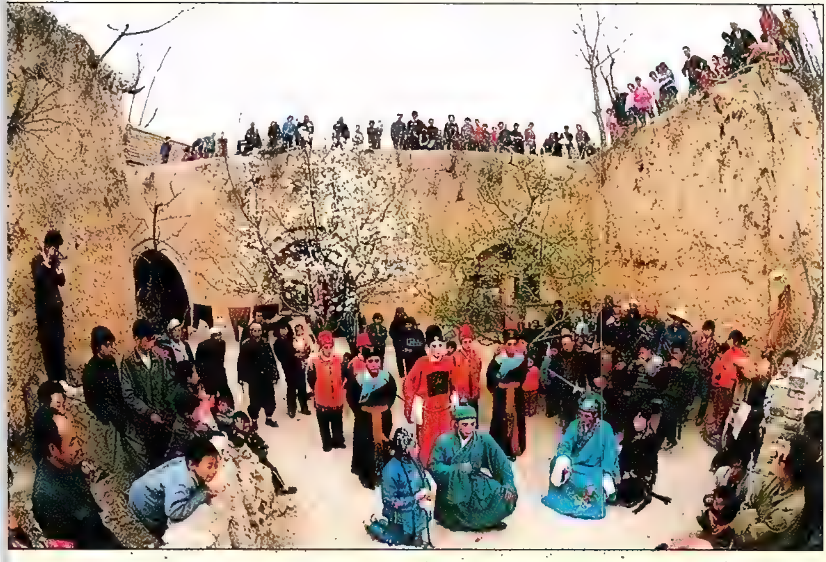
1. *Caves dug into the side of a gully are typical dwellings on the loess plateau.*
2. *The newspapers and pictures pasted on the walls of a cave of the Hu family in Yaoli Village, Pinglu County, give the cave a modern touch.*
3. *A well at a corner of the sunken courtyard provides fresh water for the cave dwellers.*
4. *Some of the sunken courtyards in Pinglu County are quite spacious. A village opera troupe can perform a classical opera in a courtyard, and people can watch the performance from the edge of the courtyard without rigging up a stage.*

1

Yellow River boasts a long history. Historical records show that the county was part of the ancient state of Yu during the Shang Dynasty (c. 16th-11th century B.C.) and the home of many famous historical figures. The well-known ruins of the Yangshao Culture in Mianchi County, Henan, are located not far from Pinglu. From the underground cave dwellings uncovered among the ruins of the Yangshao Culture, it can be deduced that the underground caves in Pinglu have existed for at least 5,000 years.

Before my travelling companions and I began our trip to Pinglu, we were told that many underground cave dwellings could be found in Jidu Village, about three kilometres from the Pinglu county seat. Our arrival there coincided with the local annual Peach Blossom Festival. A smooth road led into the entrance to the village, where a large decorated arch had been erected. The road surface of yellow earth had been sprinkled with water, and the poplars on both sides of the road were whitewashed with lime to create an atmosphere of festivity. People dressed in new clothes, riding on bicycles, driving donkey carts, or walking on foot with baskets on their backs, were all heading for the peach orchard at the village entrance where the Peach Blossom Festival was to be held.

Upon entering the village, we did not see any caves. There were only a few small brick houses used for storing all sorts of things. Someone pointed at the ground in front of us. A few steps from our feet was a large pit with planted peach trees in blossom with the top of the peach trees extended above ground. Caves were dug into the vertical walls of the pit: These were the underground cave homes, scattered numerously around the village and were known as underground courtyards, pit yards or sunken courtyard of caves. A square pit, measuring from 10 to 30 metres each side and an average six or seven metres deep, was dug into the ground. There were some pits which were as deep as 12 metres.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Caves were then dug into the four walls of the pit for sleeping, living and as storage space. From a distance, a visitor to the village sees only flat ground and may wonder where the occasional cries of roosters and the barking of dogs come from. When he looks carefully, however, he will find tree and chimney tops extending above ground. I worried if people or vehicles might fall into one of the pits and break their necks, but was told by the villagers that it never happened. Or at least, not for the local residents. It is said that when these pits were photographed by a foreign satellite, analysts concluded that they were pits for launching guided missiles.

A Pit for Each Family

A tunnel characterized by a 90-degree bend leads out of the sunken courtyard. Both ends of the tunnel are facades built with bricks. A flight of stone steps then leads to the surface. It is quite dark in the tunnel. When it lightens, you know you are inside the courtyard.

The sunken courtyards in Jidu Village are planted with peach and pear trees, some even carpeted with lawn. Usually a family lived in each courtyard. A larger family lived in a larger courtyard with more caves dug into the walls. However, only two or three of the caves were for accommodation; the others were used as kitchen or storage. Chickens, dogs and draught animals were enclosed to different caves. The "living room" cave was usually the largest cave in a sunken courtyard. It had a larger doorway and windows to provide better lighting. Although it was already mid-April when we were there, the pictures of door gods and couplets pasted on the doors during the lunar New Year still looked new. Some families dug a side cave, known as "a cave above a cave" or "a cave inside a cave" in their living room cave for storing valuables. It was said that this side cave was sometime used as a refuge in the former days from war and marauding bandits. The kitchen was always built next to the cave used as the living room. In some courtyards, the kitchen and the living room shared the same cave. The outlet of the stove was connected to the hollowed brick bed. In summer, the cooking smoke went out through the chimney and in winter, the smoke currents would pass through the hollowed brick bed to heat it. In one courtyard, we saw that the stove was built at the exit tunnel for better ventilation. A huge cauldron was positioned on the stove for steaming bread. The courtyard must be inhabited by an extra-large family because the cauldron was so big and deep that five steaming racks could be placed, one on top of another, in the cauldron.

Yaoli Village – A Muslim Community

The following day, we made a special trip to the western outskirts of the county town to see Yaoli Village which is inhabited by Muslims. Pinglu County has a population of more than 500 Muslims, most of them living in Yaoli Village, three kilometres outside the county town. There were both sunken courtyards and hillside cave dwellings in Yaoli, and the sunken courtyards here were slightly different from those we saw in the other village. To prevent anyone or an animal from falling into the pits, the edges of the pits were surrounded by a short wall less than a foot high; some of these walls had even supplementary eave-like top.

The Muslims living in Yaoli Village were surnamed either Ma or Hu. Interestingly, if the characters Ma and Hu are put together, they mean "carelessness". Separately, however, their names have no derogatory meaning. Islamic symbols were carved on the entrances, doors and walls in every kind of sunken courtyards. A cave in one of the sunken courtyards served as the village mosque for people to pray. It happened to be Friday. The villagers had gathered in the cave mosque and led by an imam were performing a prayer ceremony. The coloured pictures of Jerusalem on the walls and the arched ceiling lent a solemn air to the cave mosque. In addition to farming, slaughtering and curing beef provided the villagers with the largest share of sideline income. Since the slaughtering of animals, including oxen and chickens, had to be performed by an imam from the mosque, the few imams in the village were always busily engaged.

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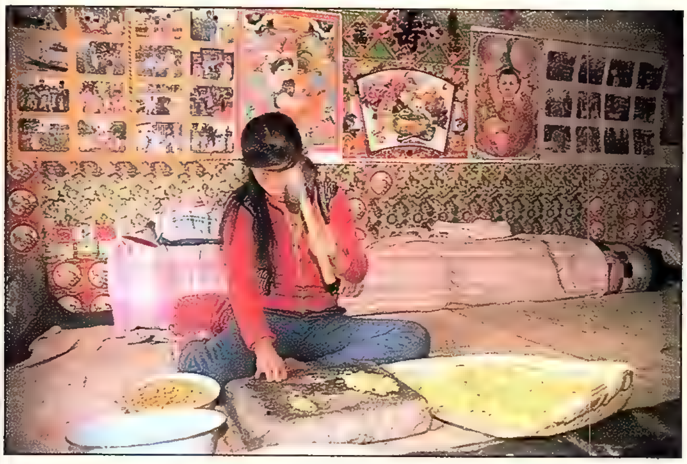
People in Yaoli Village paid meticulous attention to cleanliness and tidiness. The furniture in the caves was always properly arranged. Even the stoves in the kitchens were scrubbed clean and shining. The walls in the caves were pasted with newspaper. All kinds of pictures, both Chinese and foreign, adorned the wall on the door and window side. In one of the sunken courtyards we saw a housewife waving a cloth at a wooden-framed loom. We were told that every family in the village had a cotton fluffer, a spinning wheel and a loom, but few people could really use them nowadays. Although the homespun produced on the loom was rather coarse, its colour and texture were rich in folk flavour. The young lady who served as our interpreter bought a big length of cloth and said that she would make a novel and unique dress with it.

Funeral and Wedding Ceremonies

Although many sunken cautyards can be found in Pinglu County, there were no villages which consisted entirely of sunken courtyards. All the villages had both sunken courtyards and hillside caves. Depending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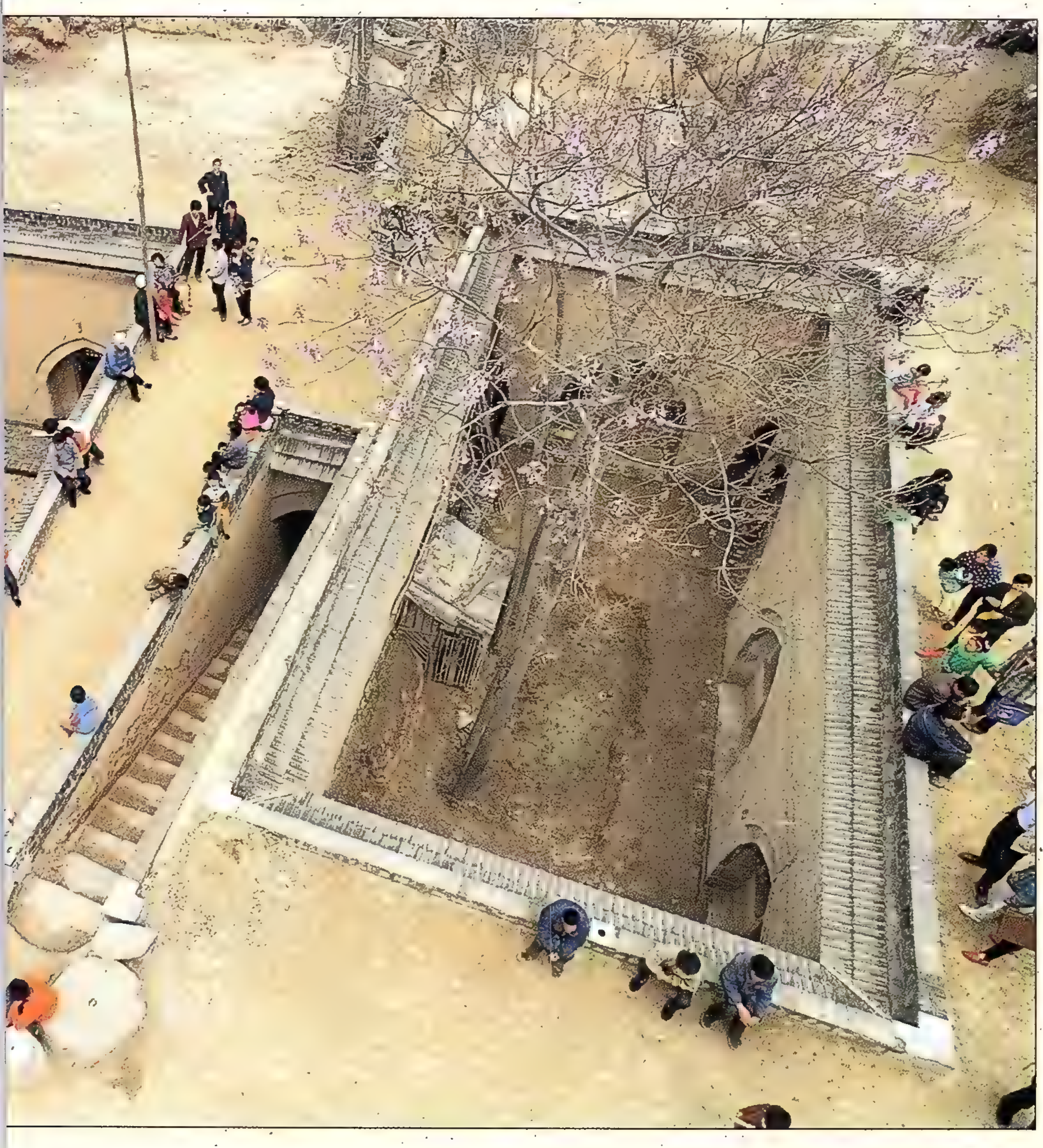
on the local terrain, there were more hillside caves on the sunny side of a hill and more sunken courtyards where the ground was flat. A hillside cave was cheap to build, but offered only a small yard in front. A sunken courtyard provided people with a big yard, and the cave tops could be used for drying crops. However, the villagers lived in peace and harmony no matter what kind of caves were their homes.

There is a local custom in Shijianian Village that when a funeral or wedding ceremony is to be held in one family, all the people in the village will come forward to help. All the villagers, both young and old, men and women, will then gather in the sunken courtyard. A small pavilion will be built at the entrance to the tunnel leading to the courtyard to serve as the guest reception centre. At the wedding we attended in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1. A housewife working at a wooden loom in an underground cave in Yaoli Village, Pinglu County – now a rare sight.
2. A clean and tidy cave kitchen in a sunken courtyard.
3. Two neighbouring sunken courtyards share an entrance and exit flight of stone steps.
4. A girl crushing beans with an iron hammer on the brick bed in a cave. The crushed beans are to be added into a gruel.
5. When the peach trees blossom and the wheat and rape in the terraced fields are green in spring, the loess plateau of Pinglu County in Shanxi Province becomes idyllically beautiful.

1. Farmers in Pinglu prepare large white steamed bread in a huge steamer.
2. A grave in Pinglu is built like a miniature sunken courtyard. The coffin is lowered into the pit and then pushed into a cave in the wall of the pit so that the dead can rest eternally in a cave.
3. When an elder died in the Zhang family in Zhangjianian Village, Pinglu County, a funeral banquet was laid out in the sunken courtyard to feed the entire village who had come to mourn.
4. Christian followers in Xianiu Village, Pinglu County, singing hymns in their cave church. There is a considerable number of Christians among the dwellers of sunken courtyards.
5. Muslims in Yaoli Village pray in their unique cave mosque.
6. People in Pinglu plant crops in the loess gullies and build their cave dwellings on the sides of the gullies.

a courtyard, we saw that the woman who was soon to become a mother-in-law was all smiles as she received large steamed white bread from a bamboo basket brought by each guest. As a returning gift, she then put into each basket home-made steamed bread impressed with a red "happiness" character. People in Pinglu look upon white steamed bread as an ideal gift. It is said that the custom of exchanging steamed bread dates back to remote times.

The bridal cave was whitewashed both inside and outside. The door and windows were decorated with paper-cut designs and the "double-happiness" character. A bright red curtain hung at the door. The inside of the cave was also decorated with colourful ribbons. A wardrobe painted with bright designs stood in the cave. The bridal bed was an old-fashioned brick bed connected to the window-sill and had a raised guard around it. Pictures of rich local flavour were pasted on the inside of the guard. The happiest person that day was Serge, a fellow photographer from the GLMR International News Photo Agency, who managed to meet some of his old friends in the village. Among the musicians in the wedding band were two *suona* players, a father and daughter who had recently visited France as Chinese folk musicians. When old friends met, it was certainly an occasion for carousing with abundance. On top of that, the wine they drank was the villagers' fragrant home-brew from sorghum, and there was music played on drums, cymbals and *suonas* which were popular on the loess plateau in Northwest China . Serge had learned to use the chopsticks and had a good appetite.

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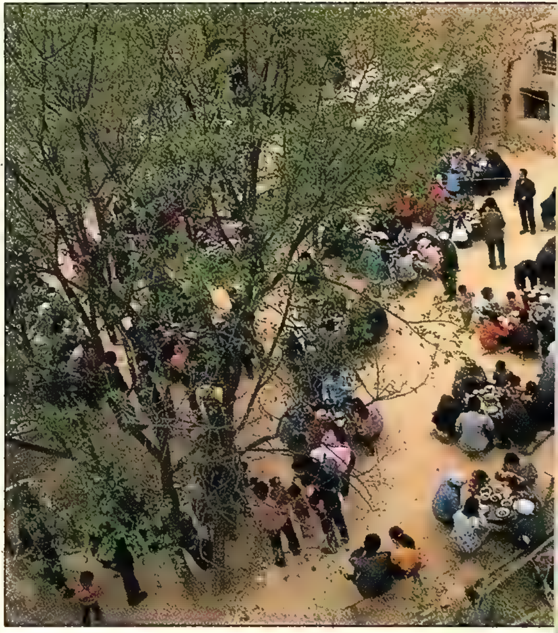

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As he drank, he played noisy finger-guessing games with the villagers.

Christians in Xianiu Village

On the last day of our visit, we drove to Xianiu Village more than 10 kilometres from the county town. The village was located on level ground with large patches of wheat fields interspersed with peach orchards. After the rain in the previous night, the peach blossoms looked particularly bright and beautiful. Some villagers were working in the peach orchards, weeding, pruning and loosening the earth, and others were driving a donkey with a stone roller behind it to level the threshing ground on top of the caves in a sunken courtyard; a young woman was sitting at the entrance to a cave and suckling her baby; a granny was preparing dumplings with her granddaughter and a group of women had gathered with their needlework, gaily chatting and laughing.

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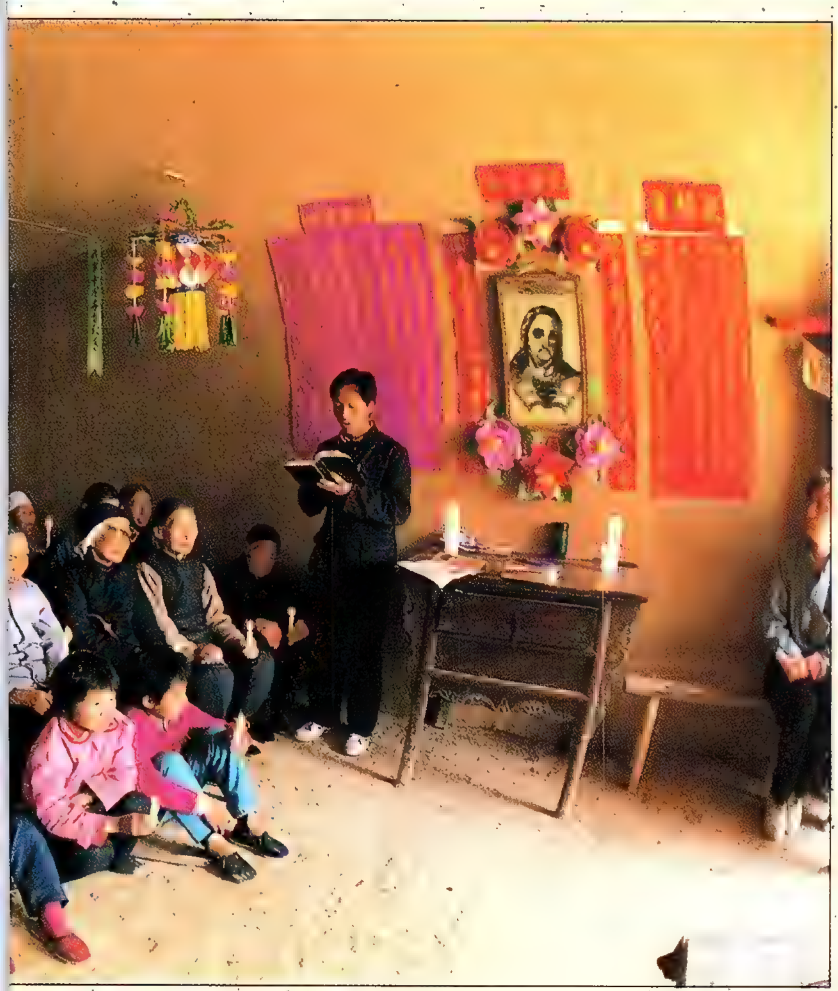
I was surprised when I was told that there were quite a number of Christians among the cave dwellers in the sunken courtyards. Xianiu Village was the congregating centre of Christians in the area, where a collectively owned cave in the village had been converted into a church. Freshly plastered with mud and straw, the walls in the cave church gave forth a refreshing scent of green grass and were hung with quotations from the Bible and pictures of Jesus Christ. Lanterns and some simple decorations created a congenial atmosphere. At noon, believers in the village began to gather in the cave church in twos and threes, each carrying his or her own chair or stool. Following the leader of the congregation, they each held a candle as they piously read the Bible; sang hymns and listened to the preaching.

Xianiu was a comparatively well-off village. Some villagers had moved out of the sunken courtyards and cave dwellings into newly-built brick houses. The young men and women, in particular, looked upon houses of bricks and tiles as a symbol of better living. The head of the village, Zhao Yuan, however, still preferred a cave dwelling. He had assiduously prettified his sunken courtyard, reconstructed the tunnel leading into the courtyard into a sloping one and fitted it with electric lights so that he could ride his motor cycle straight into the courtyard.

Instead of building a short wall around the pit, he had planted a circle of pomegranate trees, which looked extremely beautiful in summer when fruit hung heavy on their branches. He had also enlarged his caves both in width and in depth and enlarged the doors and windows. In the caves were his newly acquired TV set, cassette recorder and washing machine. He told us that people could live a longer life in an underground cave and that he was considering maintaining more than 20 sunken courtyards which had been abandoned, and converting them into hostels and restaurants so that visiting tourists could experience life in the underground caves on the loess plateau.

Translated by Tang Bowen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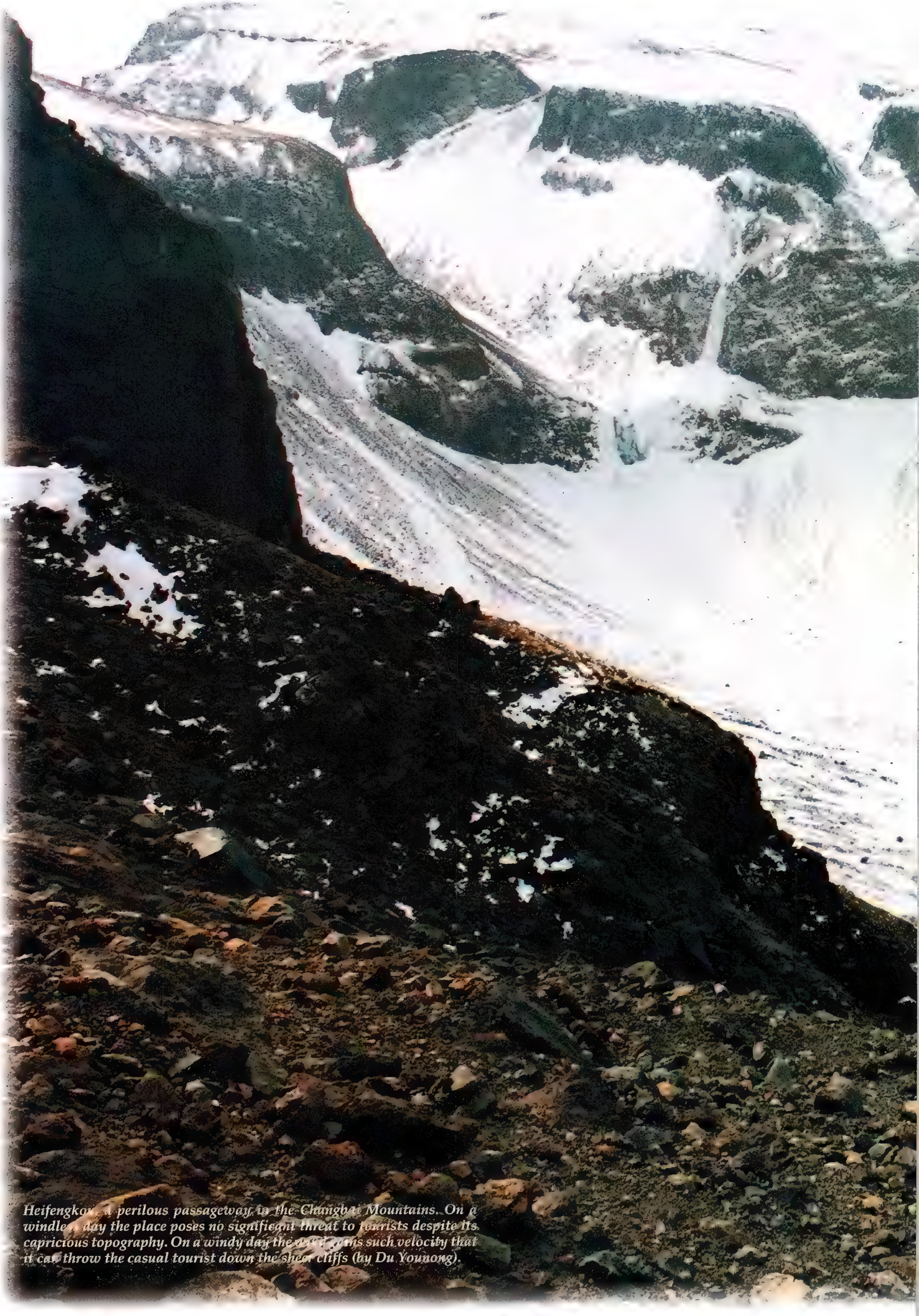
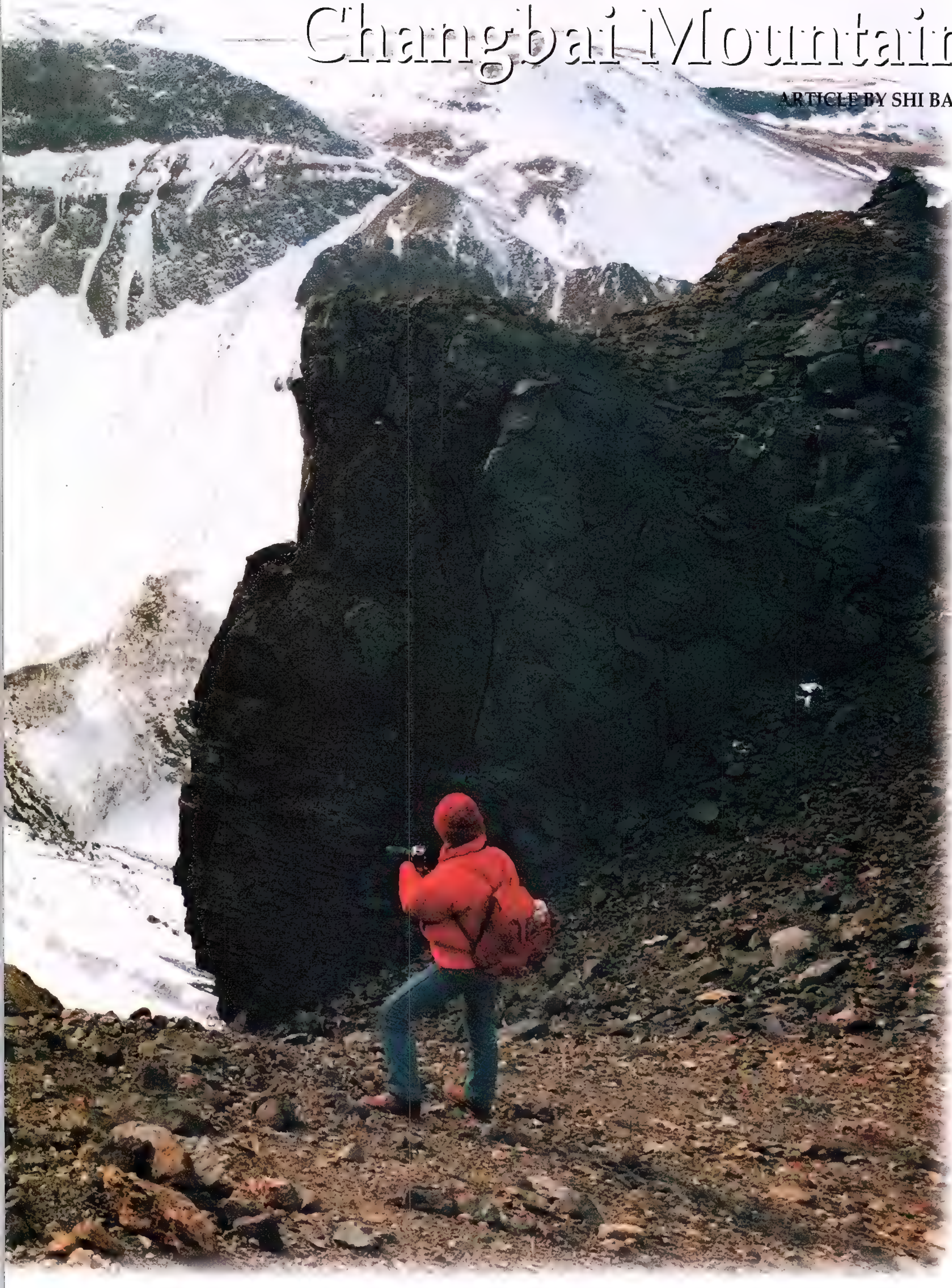


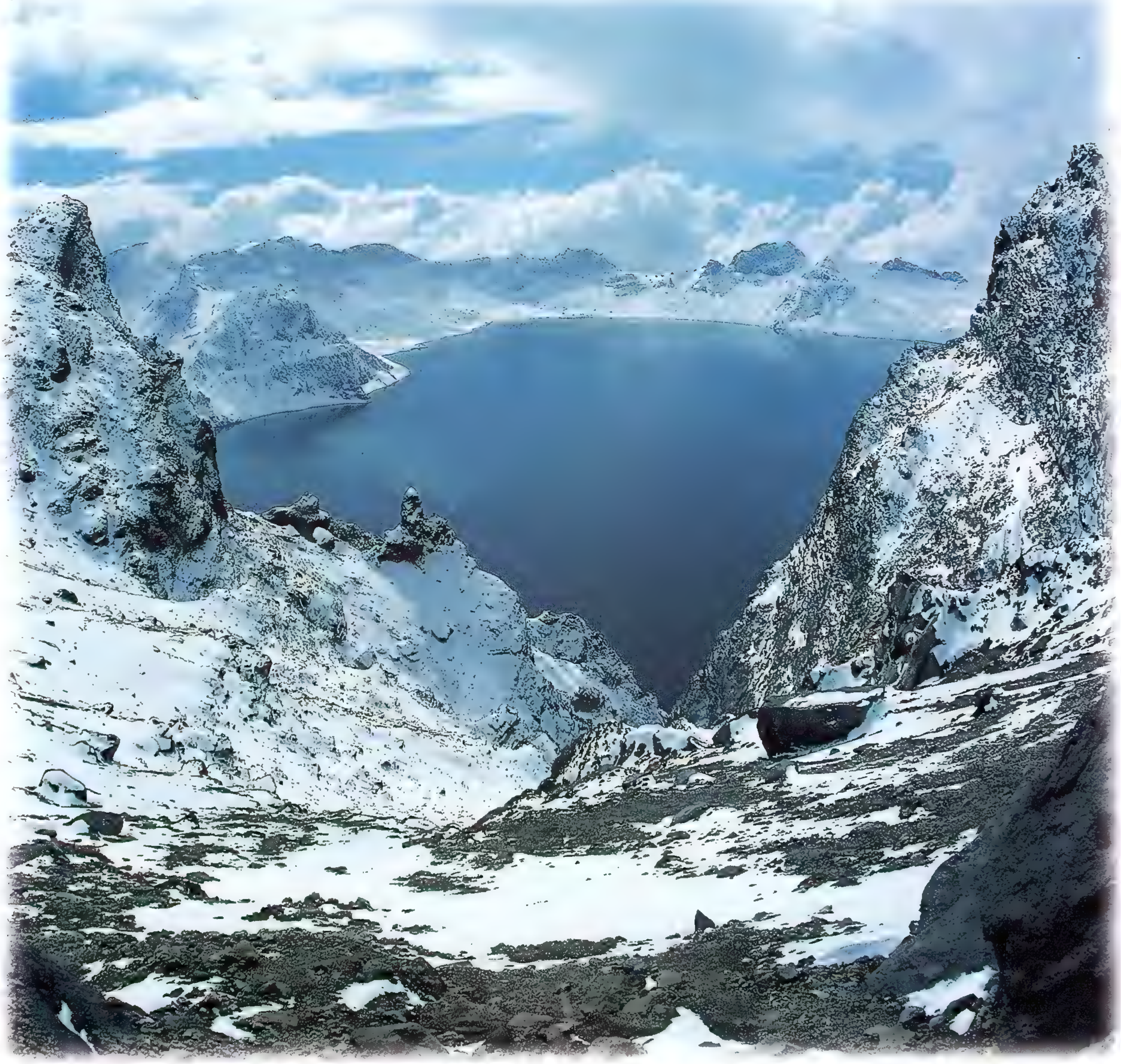
Heifengkou, a perilous passageway in the Changbai Mountains. On a windless day the place poses no significant threat to tourists despite its capricious topography. On a windy day the wind gains such velocity that it can throw the casual tourist down the sheer cliffs (by Du Younong).

A Winter Tour of the Changbai Mountains

ARTICLE BY SHI BAO XIU



The peaks of the Changbai Mountains in June. The last of the snow stays until July (by Shi Bao Xiu).



The wooden houses of the Changbai Mountain Villa await those who choose to visit the mountains in winter (by Shi Bao Xiu).

The gateway to the Changbaishan Scenic Area is situated mid-way from Erdaobaihe Town and the Changbai Mountains (by Shi Bao Xiu).

Having feasted my eyes on trees with rime on the shores of the Songhua River, I embarked on a train, and with the steam locomotive chugging along, made my way east towards Changbai Mountains on the Sino-Korean border.

After a night's journey I arrived at the terminal, a place called Erdaobaihe, which turned out to be a tiny town tucked away amidst the graceful forms of pine trees. As the seat of the headquarters of the Changbai Mountains Nature Reserve and a base camp for mountaineers, the town has a number of well-equipped hotels which are crowded with tourists in the summer. But now, in the slack tourist season, the streets were deserted with rooftops weighed down by thick layers of snow.

Having tried vainly to dissuade me from climbing the mountains on reason of bad weather, my local friends dispatched a jeep for me. Before I set off, Wang Ying, a photographer who has devoted much of his time to photographing the Changbai Mountains, warned me against going out by myself to the mountains. "Even when you walk at the foot of the mountains," he said, "you should never leave the road, or else you run the risk of being buried alive in snow."

"Octopus" Swimming in an Ocean of Trees

A strong wind rose shortly after I went on the road. It started to snow. Our jeep was soon nosing its way through knee-deep snow on a mountain trail barely wide enough for one vehicle. The driver told me that the trail had already been opened with a bulldozer a couple of days earlier, or else it would have been impossible for us to advance. When the jeep swung laboriously onto a gentle mountain slope the Changbai Mountains suddenly revealed their imposing presence. Through the misty curtain of swirling snow, I saw a blue smudge of high ridges protruding from the snowy mantle of the mountains, looking like a giant octopus swimming with its eight arms in an ocean of trees on the Sino-Korean borders.

On our way we came across a young trekker from Fujian Province where snow is seldom seen. He had come all the way to see the beauty of the Changbai Mountains in winter. Having found that travel services and bus companies at Erdaobaihe had closed down, he had chosen to enter the mountains on foot even though he was not wearing enough clothes. By the time we had found him he had been trembling with cold, his shoes and trousers caked with thick crusts of ice. The tremendous cold had thrown him into a panic. We gave him a lift towards the foot of the mountains, but the chill proved too much for him. Without so much as marvelling at the snow-clad landscape he had so craved for, he left in haste with another vehicle. "Even though I couldn't make it to the top of the mountains, I am satisfied because I have seen the peaks and the thick snow," he said before waving good-bye to me.

I was put up for the first night in a winter sporting camp at the entrance to the Changbai Mountains. Having been deserted for the better part of winter, the camp was coming alive with a constant stream of new arrivals. Everyday the sporting grounds were cleaned of snow in preparation for the annual national skiing competition to be held in mid-March.

The next day broke fine and sunny. I made my way towards the Great Waterfall. It was all glistening white, rolling in gentle undulations over the ridges, the vales and timberland. On the highway, however, the snow lay in varying depths, knee-high on the lee side but disappearing altogether on the windward so that the cement surface of the road showed through.

The scenery around the hotel was astonishing. Winter had set in in this area in October. By February, several heavy snowstorms later, the buildings are all buried in snow from the door and window lintels down. The road that conducts to the front gate of the hotel looked like the bottom of a trench cut into more than one metre of snow. At a distance, hats could be seen bobbing in the snow as people strolled down the road.

Bubbling Hot Springs

The land lay tranquil save for the sound of shoes crackling in the snow, and not a soul could be seen. Suddenly, in the distance

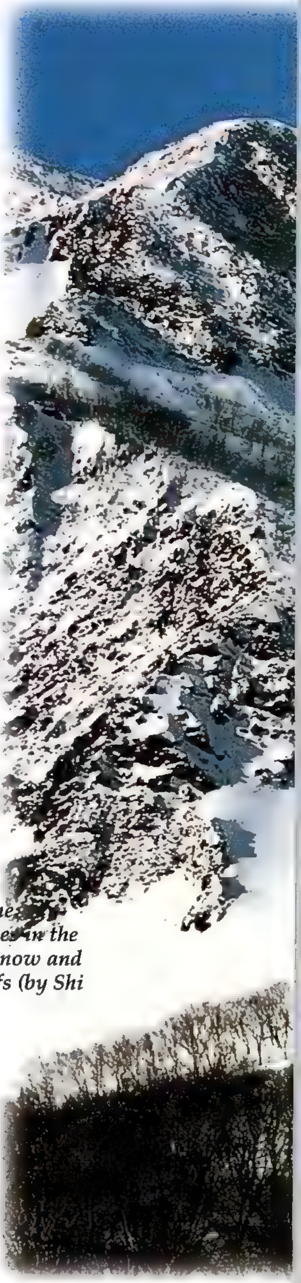
Despite subfreezing temperatures, the Erdaobaihe River never freezes as a result of the cluster of hot springs in its upper reaches (by Li Li).

Thanks to thick accumulations of snow and ice, winter sports at Changbai Mountains can last several months (by Huang Yunsheng).

Spring flowers on a land of snow and ice (by Wang Ying)

Only trees growing outside the nature reserve can be felled. Winter is the best season for lumbering (by Lang Qi).

Swimming in hot springs: an experience poles apart from winter swimming in the Songhua River (by Song Yaohuan).



The charm of wintertime in Changbai Mountains lies in the timberland, the white snow and naked overhanging cliffs (by Shi Bao Xiu).

Snow is cleaned in preparation for the annual skiing competition held in March (by Shi Bao Xiu).

ahead, we spotted a valley smothered in a thickening pall of fog, and we instantly knew that we had arrived at the famous Changbai Hot Springs.

Hardly had we arrived at the bottom of the valley when the choking smell of sulphur assailed our nostrils. The air was resounded with gurgling water. Rimed and stiff with frost, willow trees stood glistening in a silver sheen in the sun. I stopped by a hot spring, wanting to feel the warmth of the water. My hands had barely touched the current when I recoiled by instinct: the water was piping hot at nearly 90˚C. The best I could do was sit on a rock and let my body be enveloped in the vapour – which reminded me of a sauna bath – and in no time I was sweating profusely.

Suddenly, I espied something hovering over the water surface. What could it be in this subfrozen world? It turned out to be a colony of mosquitos dancing merrily amidst the curling vapour of the hot springs.

Past the hot springs I got my first taste of walking on thin ice. Because of the high wind, snow had become as thick as three men placed one on top of the other at the bottom of the vale. To cross the "river" of unfathomable depth requires courage and caution; at times one wrong step might have been attended with fatal consequences. Fortunately, the crust of ice under my foot was thick and strong enough to sustain my weight, and I eventually made it to the other side of the valley safe and sound.

During this time of the year the Great Waterfall is no longer gushing over the edge of a precipice a hundred feet high – the subfreezing temperature has frozen it into a smooth, perpendicular ice-wall. Looking through a tiny hole in the wall I saw a tiny trickle of water running noiselessly inside a cave.

Narrow Escape from a Hidden River

As I pursued a treacherous path I suddenly felt the ground give under my feet and, with the crackle of a snow-hidden ice-thin skin, I sank deep into the snow. Only by stretching out both my arms did I manage to stop sinking deeper. Looking through my legs I was dumbfounded to discover a river running below one metre of snow. My narrow escape instantly robbed me of my interest in the wonders of nature. With even greater caution, I beat a hasty retreat by retracing the footsteps I had left on my way to the spot.

Dusk had fallen by the time I returned to the hotel. In the twilight of the setting sun, the snow peak of the Changbai Mountains

Tianchi Lake frozen solidly in winter (by Du Younong)

Poaching is banned inside the nature reserve (by Wang Ying).

glistened brilliantly against the equally dazzling field of white snow that surrounded them.

The Changbai Mountain Villa was under the care of a middle-aged man surnamed Cui. Judging from his accent he was obviously a Korean. I followed him along a road hemmed in between shoulder-high snow and entered a cosy room where I was to stay for the night.

In the Jaws of a High Wind

Cui prepared pickled vegetable, salted fish and some other Korean dishes for dinner. Over sips of hard liquor we struck up a long chat.

Cui's grandfather and father were both expert ginseng collectors in the Changbai Mountains. But this family tradition came to an abrupt end when the place was designated as a nature reserve where poaching, the felling of trees and the digging of ginseng are banned. Cui, instead, made a living by working in the hotel.

He protested vehemently when I told him I wanted to climb to the top of the mountains the following morning. Mountaineering at this time of the year, he said, was never a one-man's sport. "At the foot of the mountains there are gentle winds and beautiful sun, and you feel safe enjoying the scenery," he said, "but on the mountains the situation is totally different."

He told me how one winter he escorted a team of a dozen reporters from television stations and pictorial presses up the mountain. To make just one single stride forward they had to strain every muscle. When they approached a place called "Gate of Hell", where the wind hissed and rage incessantly, they had to tie themselves together to a long rope and inch forward on all fours. By the time they had reached the top the sun was already setting. The wind rose again, whipping up swirls of snow, and the evening chill was thickening. Despite the thick down clothing they were wearing, everyone started shivering with cold. The mountaintop turned out to be a level stretch covered with a thick blanket of snow that extended as far as the eye could see. White was the dominant colour, save for the blue sky above. When the cold became unbearable, Cui asked everybody to make haste and climb downhill. The temperature could plunge as low as 40℃ below zero, he said, and everybody obeyed him.

Our conversation, however, became more and more congenial as we imbibed one cup of spirit after another. While nursing his cup Cui started an emotional account of how the Koreans worshipped the Changbai Mountains. Local newlyweds take great pride in holding weddings atop the mountains, which is regarded as the holy mountain by people from both south and north Korea. Among the pilgrims there are no lack of south Koreans who travel all the way to China and climb up the mountains from the southern side; when they have reached the top, they would fall on their knees and kowtow for what seems to be an eternity to the mountains across the Sino-Korean border. The older among them often burst into tears and cry at the top of their voice.

The Korean Youngsters' Adventure

Cui then related what had happened to a team of 15 teenager mountaineers from South Korea two years ago. The team, the oldest of whom were barely 18 years old and the youngest 14, arrived in early March, wanting to reach the Tianchi Lake on the top of the Changbai Mountains. They started their climb early in the morning, but to the great apprehension of those working in the hotel, they did not return at night. When they had failed to emerge the next morning, the hotel staff decided to climb up the mountains to see what was happening. Shortly after they entered the mountain archway they found the teenagers trudging downhill. Their faces and hands were all frozen a darkish grey – so exhausted were they, they could not talk intelligibly. Only after they had returned to the warmth of the hotel rooms and had enough food and drink did they recover from their ordeal. It happened that these youngsters had been ill-prepared against the hardship of the journey. When they had reached the mountaintop it had already become dark and because of the biting cold, high wind, they dared not climb down the precarious road in the pitch dark. To ward off the cold they had pressed close together outside a weather station whose door had been locked. When the temperature had dropped to an unbearable low, they had had no alternative but to pry open the door and enter the weather station. Then they had gathered firewood and raised a fire for warmth. To kill the pang of hunger they had baked a heap of potatoes left behind by station workers.

High Hopes Dashed

Mr. Cui and myself carried on talking until the early hours of the morning, but feeling restless and undaunted, I was still determined to go up and view the snow-scape from the Changbai Mountains.

I rose early at five dawn and left the hotel only to be greeted by a forbidding black sky. Heavy clouds obscured the half snow-burdened mountains, and an ugly wailing were wind definitely not an invitation up the mountains.

"You can always come back next year in April when the mountains are friendlier," Mr. Cui consoled on my return to the hotel.

Translated by Ling Yuan

The mountain trail is covered with thick snow (by Du Younong).

The mountaintop weather station is deserted in wintertime (by Wu Guangxiao).

An aerial view, the Changbai Mountains sprawl under a thick crust of ice which starts thickening in September and melts down in the coming June.

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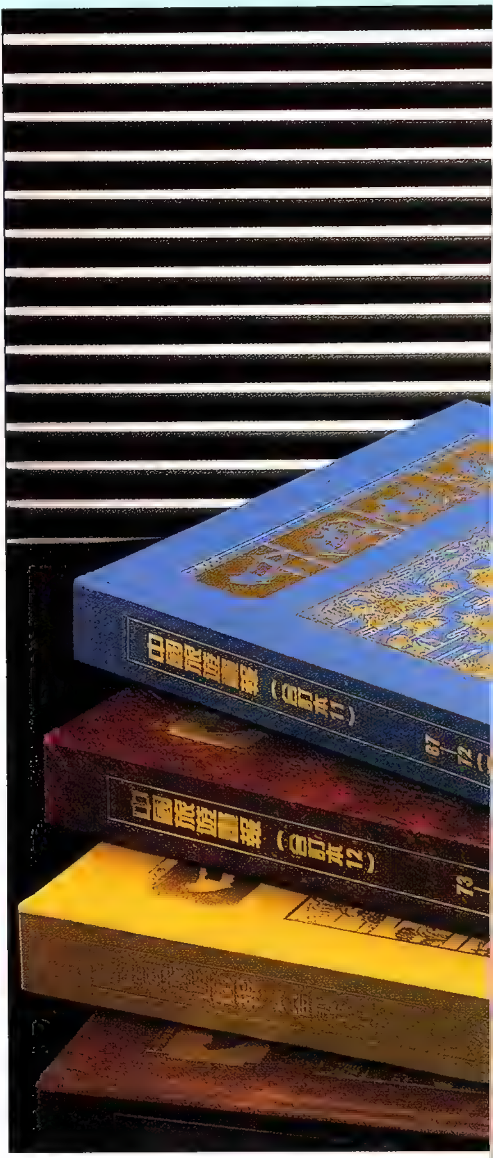

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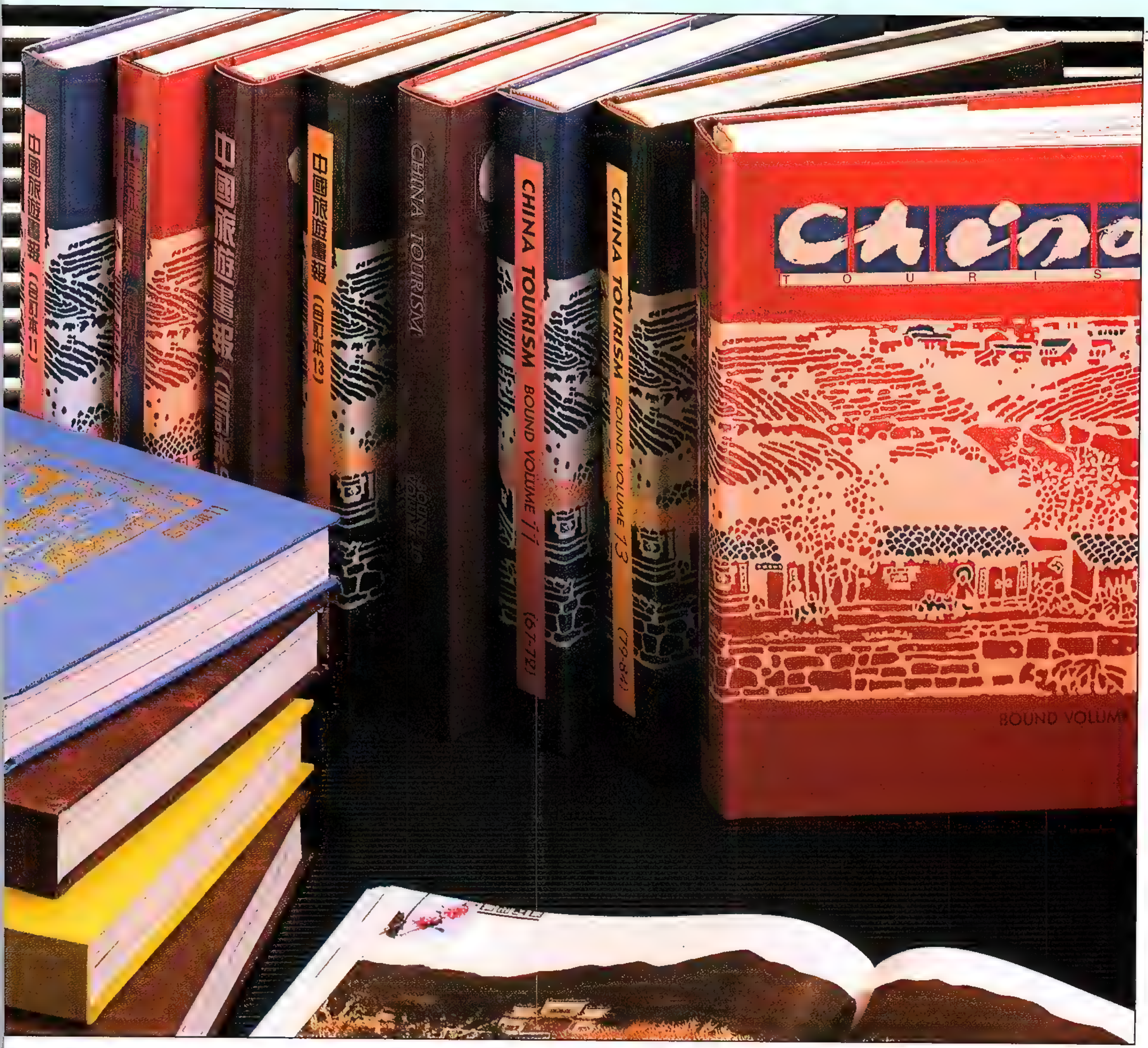

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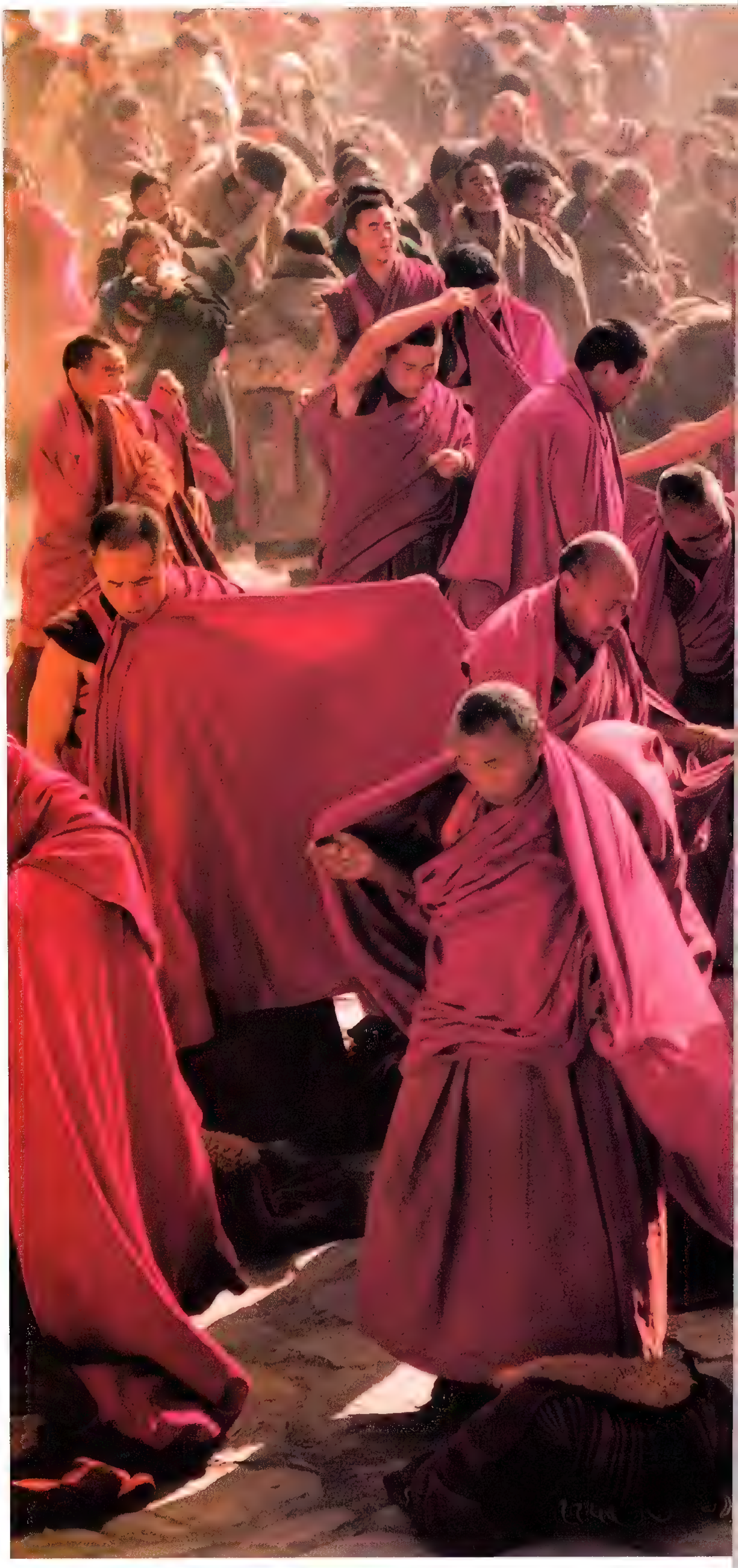
Sacred Occasion

–A Glimpse of Sunning the Buddha Festival in Gannan

PHOTOS BY CHEN BINGHONG
TEXT BY YUAN CHENG



After the Sermon

Head low– is he still immersed in the sutra chanted on the grand sermon that has just finished? The lines of his *kasaya* and his out-stretched arm are like musical notes. Warm sunshine from one side behind makes his deep red robe softer in colour. Particles of dust flying in the sunshine help to bring out the mood of the spot. Just by using a "photographic eye" snapping the shutter at a dramatic moment, this picture captures the Lamas changing out of Buddhist garments after the sermon.

Entrance to the Blessed World

The big black patch resembles purgatory; the bright spot at the upper middle seems the entrance to the blessed world. Here, a balanced composition is used. By measuring light on a key area to gain a sharp contrast between bright and dark colours, the photo presents a mysteriously sacred mood and emphasizes people who otherwise may look too small. Coming to this holy place after a long trudge , Buddhist followers may be physically fatigued but spiritually strengthened.

A big religious gathering – Sunning the Buddha Festival (the festival of unfolding a giant painted or embroidered cloth scroll called *thangka*) is held annually between the first to the 15th of the first lunar month in Labrang Monastery of Xiahe County, Gannan Tibetan Autonomou Prefecture, Gansu Province. During my first visit to the place, though brief, I had been enchanted by the unique activities for the occasion an impressed by the devoutness of locals in Tibetan Buddhism. The next year, I rushed there to take photos.

Hundreds and thousands of Tibetan people gathered around the monastery, many having come a long way on foot from Tibet, Qinghai o Sichuan, and some having done a long prostration every number of steps along their way. Of course, this grand occasion attracted a great numbe of tourists, journalists, photographers and scholars from all over the country and abroad. Some had come to visit this mysterious land, some to tak pictures of the religious activities and some to study local religious life style.

For photographers, there was so much to snap : lectures of Buddhist sutra, grand sermons, spraying of holy melted butter, unfolding of a gian *thangka*, dancing to communicate with the Buddha and a display of butter sculptures – just to name a few. Although the trip to this place had bee hard and exhausting, no one grudged, for the enjoyable experience was really worth it.

Translated by Li Guoqing

Dance to Communicate with Deity

What has made those Lamas dance so gracefully as if to melodious music? Under side light their *kasaya* seem brighter in colour. With a slow shutter speed and a big aperture, the picture obtains a dreamy look and a tender feeling. No longer mysterious-looking emissaries of deity they have become an embodiment of beauty.

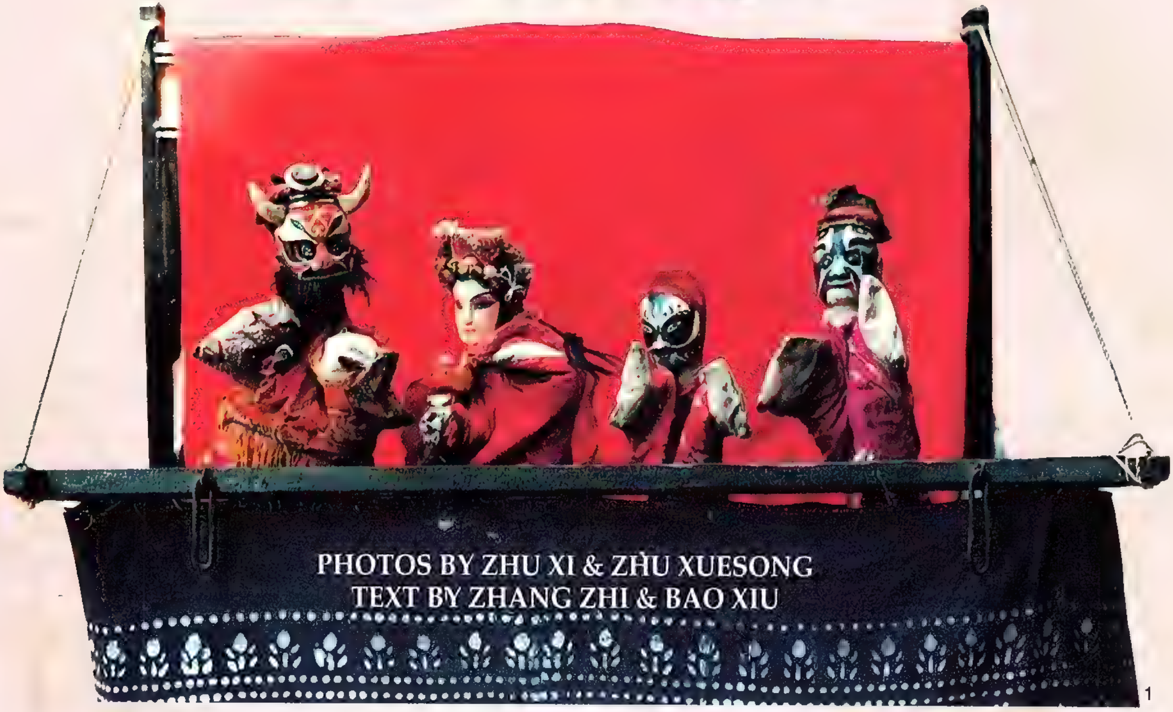
Religious Activities During the Festival

The 15-day religious festival started early in the morning on the first day of the first lunar month , with a big gathering of Tibetan people "to greet the sunrise" in front of the monastery by the Daxia River. On the second day, Lamas held a big festive gathering on the monastery square and distributed food. There were no activities held from the third to the fifth, during which time visitors headed to explore Xiahe county seat and the surrounding countryside. From the sixth to the 12th, lectures and debates on Buddhist topics were held in the morning and ceremonies of spraying melted butter in the afternoon. Among all the lectures, the one on the 12th was the grandest. Besides these gatherings, beginning from the ninth, a sermon for "extrication from purgatory" was added to the afternoon schedule. The festival reached its climax on the 13th when a giant *thangka* was carried out of the Lesser Jinwa Monastery and unfolded on the mountain slope opposite. This ceremony lasted about several hours. A dancing ceremony to communicate with the Buddha was held on the square on the 14th. The 15th exhibited works executed in butter such as human figures, palaces, landscape and mountains to mark the end of the festival.

Information for Travellers

Travellers may take airplanes or trains from Guangzhou to Lanzhou, the provincial capital of Gansu. The only long-distance bus from Lanzhou to Xiahe County where Labrang Monastery is located starts at 6:30 a.m. from Xiaoxihu Bus Station. Missing it, travellers may take one of the nine long-distance buses every day to Linxia City first where after lunch you may take a bus to Labrang Monastery. Rental buses are available in Lanzhou that take tourist groups directly to the destination.

Puppet Shows in the Mountains of Hunan



PHOTOS BY ZHU XI & ZHU XUESONG
TEXT BY ZHANG ZHI & BAO XIU

1

Even though the village of Baizhu in Hunan's Shaoyang County is remote and very small, with only some 40-50 households, it is actually quite well-known as the villagers excel in the ancient art of finger puppetry.

Baizhu puppet shows are probably the tiniest and most mobile of all Chinese theatrical performances. The stage is simply a square table wrapped in a blue blanket. The puppeteer sits behind this "curtain", playing musical instruments like drums, gongs, and cymbals with his feet while moving the puppets on the stage with his fingers. He also has to narrate the story as well as sing; and with the help of a whistle placed on his tongue, he simulates various sounds such as stringed instruments being played, wind, fire, neighing horses and even armies charging and fighting. Using every part of his body, the puppeteer manages to create lively and lifelike scenes from popular Chinese operas. A performance like this often attracts an audience of over a hundred people as the sound of the music fills the village.

After the show is over, the blanket comes off and up rises a rather hot and sweaty man. He then packs up all his props, ties them to his bamboo shoulder pole and away he goes to visit other villages in the mountains. He can set up his stage practically anywhere, in streets, alleys, fields, courtyards and on boats His repertoire includes traditional piece based on the popular Chinese classics *Outlaw of the Marsh* and *Journey to the West.*

These finger puppet artists are all farmer from Baizhu Village. During the slack farmin seasons they pack up their puppets and trave the mountains of Hunan, often going furthe to the neighbouring provinces of Guizhou an Yunnan. In the 1950s, one outstanding ol puppeteer from Baizhu called Li Guiheng even took his shows t countries in Southeast Asia an Eastern Europe.

The history of this art can b traced back to over 1,700 years ag to the Three Kingdoms Perio (220-280), when a man called M Jun made wooden marionette that could perform all kinds of acrobatic acts. According to the ol artists of Baizhu, the earlier puppet troupes consisted of more tha one performer and more puppets but conflicts drove the troup

2

apart and in the end it became a one-man travelling finger puppet show. Much later, during the Song Dynasty (960-1279), the puppets were used to recount episodes from Chinese operas. By the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the wood puppets had been replaced by cloth ones.

Traditionally, the Baizhu artists carved their puppets' faces from ginkgo wood and dressed the puppets in colourfully embroidered costumes, topped with all sorts of helmets made of small brass buckles or tiny pieces of glass and beads.

As for the singing, the lyrics have been passed from one generation to the next by word of mouth, while the music is a combination of the local music of Shaoyang and other neighbouring areas. Over time both the finger puppets themselves and the performances have become more realistic, and the puppets now have moveable features such as heads, eyes and lips. Captivating and skilful, these unique travelling puppet shows have gained great popularity throughout the many villages of Hunan, Guizhou and Yunnan.

Translated by Megina Kwan

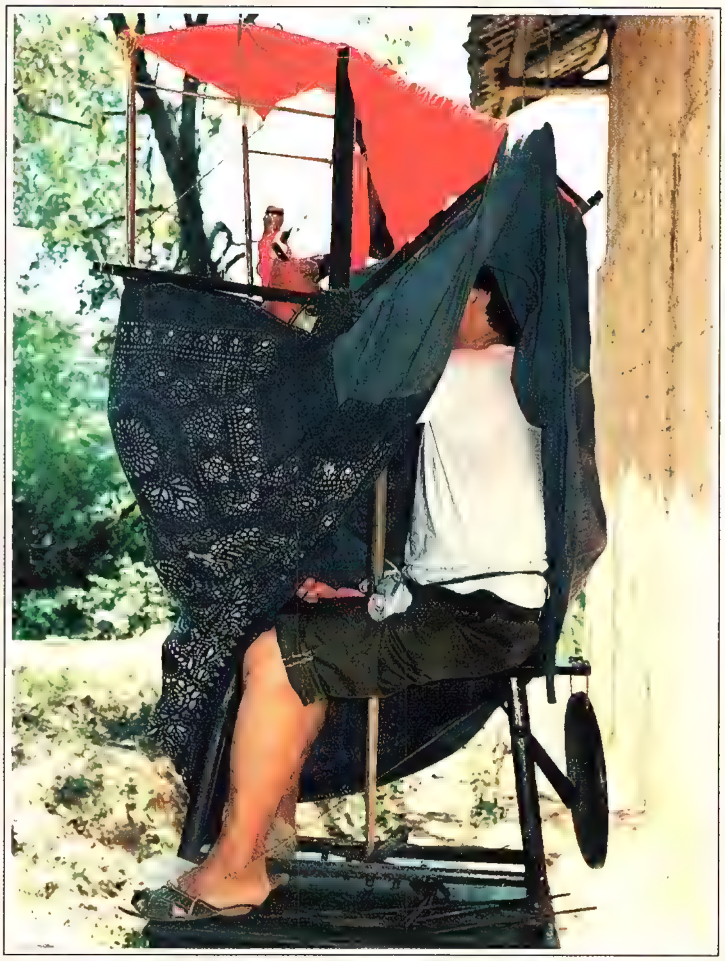
1. All the basic characters in Chinese opera are here: the male and female leads, a ferocious warrior and a clown.

2. Making finger puppets is a delicate task.

3. The puppeteer is the actor, musician, director and producer all rolled into one.

4. Finger puppet shows can be performed anytime, anywhere (by Yao Guangrong).

5. The entire show can be packed up and carried away on one bamboo shoulder pole.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A lot of people in Weifang, especially the young people, have combined the experience of the previous generations with the modern science and technology in kite-making, thus producing novel types (by Jing Qiang).

In March when the spring breeze comes in warmer and warmer, there is a boom in the number of kites which can be seen everywhere in Weifang, Shandong Province. Kites are on sale in stores and at markets, or on display in the street; their images are printed on caps and bags, or cast on badges; swallow-shaped kites are carried in the hands of pedestrians, or on the carriers of bicycles as if real swallows were hovering over pedestrians and cyclists.

Weifang, the City of Kites in Shandong

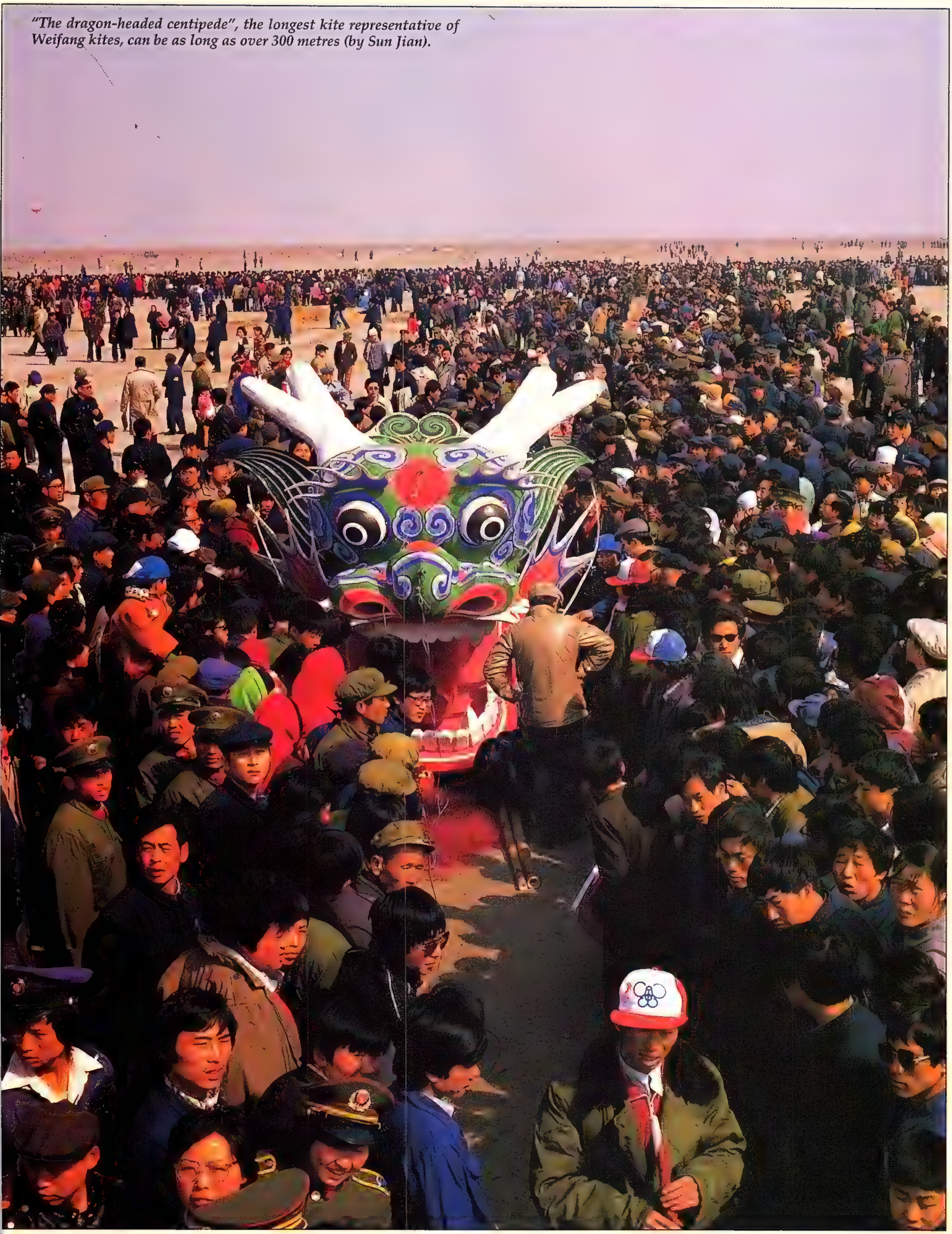
TEXT BY HUANG JIAMING

The huge dragon-headed kite is freely flying in the vast sky (by Jing Qiang).

International Kite Festival Held Around Qingming Festival

Around Qingming (Pure and Bright) Festival in April every year an international kite festival is held in Weifang. Kite lovers from all parts of the country and the world flock to the clear blue skies of the flat, vast beach north of the city.

There people hurriedly open out their kites and unfold the string. In a wink, hundreds and thousands of kites in yellow, red, blue, or purple and in the shapes of lion, tiger, fish, bird, flower or human figures fly up and soar into the sky. Rolling up a blast of sand, a dragon-headed centipede 350 metres long flies up into the sky, arousing the admiration of thousands. Look, the 108 outlaws, heroes described in the Chinese classical novel *Outlaws of the Marsh*, are flying down from heaven; the legendary Eight Immortals from Penglai Island are floating away on a tortoise's back; the fairy Chang'e is soaring to the moon; the phoenix is flirting with the the kite producing a melodious sound. As early as from the Sui and Tang dynasties (581-907), people made kites with paper instead of textiles. The kite spread rapidly and became popular among all classes. They entered their golden period during the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911), and there appeared three well-known places of kite production in Beijing, Tianjin and Weifang. Moreover, the kite has become a work representative of the cultural traditions and local features of various places. For instance, Beijing was originally called Yanjing (the swallow capital), and thus the swallow-shaped kites are very popular there. In the area south of the Yangtse, which abounds in rice and fish, the fish-shaped kites are most popular; whereas the



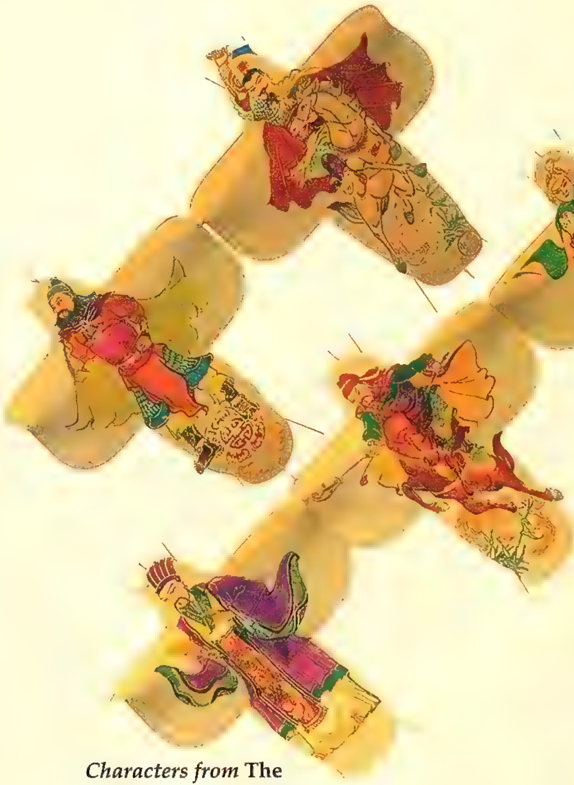
"The dragon-headed centipede", the longest kite representative of Weifang kites, can be as long as over 300 metres (by Sun Jian).

representative kite of Weifang is the dragon-headed centipede. In fact, it is a long dragon made up of many sections, and the longest one is composed of hundreds of sections with a total length of more than 300 metres.

Rich in Variety and Colour

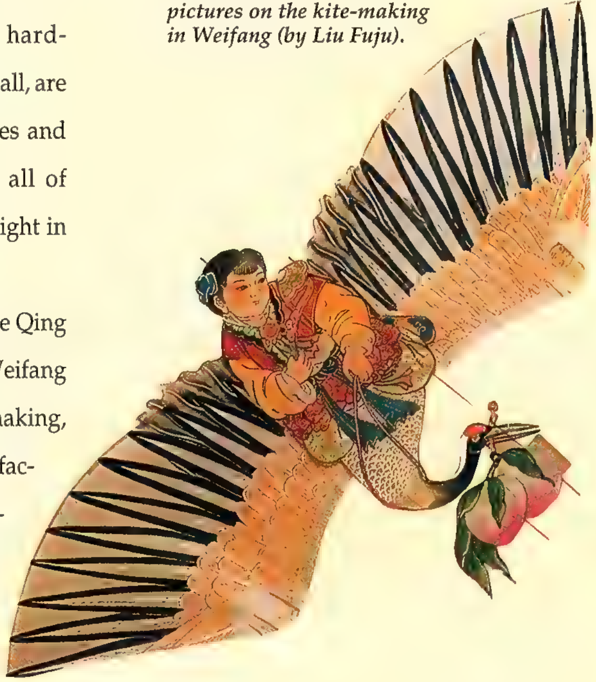
Since ancient times, Weifang has been known for its highly developed culture. Yangjiabu is one of the three places famous for New Year picture production in the country. The people there have transferred the technology of woodblock printed New Year pictures into kite-making, thus enhancing the local features of Weifang kites. The kites produced there are rich in content, covering figures, animals, insects, fish, shrimps, opera masks, and mythological stories with a large variety of shapes such as barrel-shaped, series connected, soft-winged or hard-winged. All the kites, big or small, are finely made in beautiful shapes and brilliant colours. Moreover, all of them guarantee a successful flight in the sky.

During the late period of the Qing Dynasty, there appeared in Weifang a fierce competition in kite-making, from which emerged 10 manufacturers. Each produced different kites with specific features. During Qingming Festival each year they held a competition each with



Characters from **The Romance of The Three Kingdoms.** *Zhang Fei is the top right kite.*

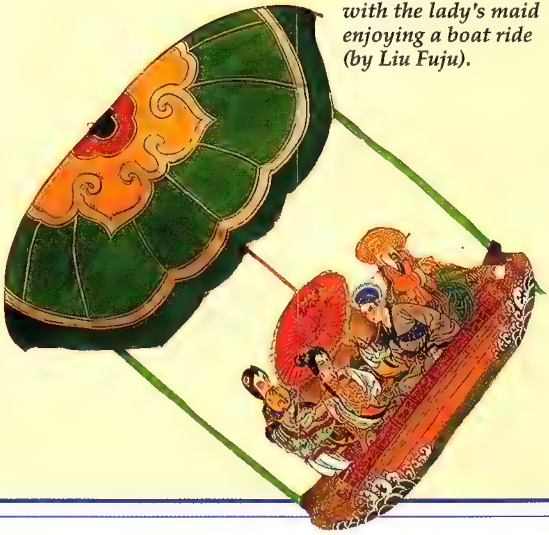
From "the girl riding a crane kite", one can see the influence exerted by Yangjiabu New Year pictures on the kite-making in Weifang (by Liu Fuju).



One of China's classic Chinese sages whose doctrines established the sine qua non for good government: Confucius (Kong Qiu, 551-479 B.C.) is the painted figure on this kite (by Liu Fuju).

The crane-shaped kite in the sky looks like a real bird (by Sun Jian).

The human figure used as the kite body suggests the wish of early mankind to fly (by Jing Qiang).



Traditional figures: a courting couple together with the lady's maid enjoying a boat ride (by Liu Fuju).

their own dragon-headed centipede design to see whose kite would fly better and higher and especially, which kite raised its tail higher, produced a better telescopic effect and finally, to see whose "dragon" was the best fighter — a kite which breaks up or falls down is considered a loser during the battle in the sky. With the passing time of, it has gradually become a local custom in Weifang to fly kites and hold a kite-flying competition during Qingming Festival.

Dragon-headed kites, however, are not for everyone to fly as they are expensive. People prefer the hard-winged kites made in Yangjiabu, which are very colourful, easy to fly up, simple and very cheap. Their images cover such mythological figures as the Eight Immortals, the Longevity God, the Hellish Judges, and Sun Wukong the Monkey King. Some people like the barrel-shaped kites and others are fond of the soft-winged kites. The barrel-shaped kites have the form of imperial lanterns. When they are not flown, they may be used as hanging lanterns with just a little decoration. As the soft-winged are made of textiles such as spun silk, they are rather expensive but they are vividly shaped in images such as eagles, butterflies, and phoenixes. And when they fly in the sky, they seem to be magically real.

Translated by Gu Weizhou

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Retrospective Theme Restaurants in Beijing

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY LIU JIAXIANG

In today's Beijing there are Sichuan cuisine, Shandong cuisine and Chaozhou cuisine, the chafing dish, instantly-boiled dish and different kinds of snacks. There are also joint-venture snack counters selling Kentucky fastfood, MacDonalds and pizza. You name it, it's in Beijing. You will, however, get bored eating these dishes all the time even if they are delicious. Moreover, traditional famous dishes cannot change from day to day. Nowadays, if you go and have a sumptuous meal in a luxury restaurant, you are easily taken for an upstart. But eating in one of Beijing's special theme restaurants is regarded as a kind of personal status, paying homage to a remembrance of things past.

The craze to run restaurants recalling the past started in the latter half of 1993, and mushroomed overnight. It seemed diners had acted in collaboration; all of a sudden they left their tables in the luxury hotels and restaurants and turned to the tables that had once belonged to the poor in such restaurants as the "The Many Household Compound Restaurant for Recalling Past Suffering and Thinking over the Present Happiness"; "Laosanjie (1966-68 Middle-School Leavers) Restaurant"; "Black Earth Restaurant"; "Gengwu Dining Hall" and "Laocha Restaurant". Although these restaurants are all deliberately retrospective in style and atmosphere, each of them has its own way to make its customers recall their past, and each has its own special customers. But no matter which restaurant you choose, you will find a similar menu. Standard fare includes steamed bread of corn, cornmeal dumplings with vegetable stuffing, baked corn cakes and corn porridge. The cold dishes are light: such as cold poplar leaves dressed with sauce, dandelion, wild edible herbs, and green onion with salted and fermented soya paste. And if you like, you can order fried locust, fried cicada, fried silkworm chrysalis, or fried sparrow to go with wine. If you want to have something to go with rice, you can order dishes like pickled Chinese cabbage stewed with pork, chicken stewed with mushroom, pork stewed with noodles made from bean starch, or crucian carp boiled in its soup without soy sauce. Different restaurants providing similar food, and yet they evoke for the diner a rich gamut of past experiences.

1. Black Earth Restaurant in Hepingli contains special pine bark walled rooms. Students from a former generation are frequent diners.
2. Strong and traditional, this restaurant has an "Earth God" shrine guarding at the front.
3. Simple dishes are served in the retrospective restaurants. Shown here are corn porridge with homely pancakes and stewed pork leg.

3

The Many Household Compound Restaurant

When you go to Xidan Street and enter Picai Lane, less than 200 metres away you will find a gate with two strings of red lanterns hanging on either side, and on the gatetower hangs a board bearing golden characters on a green background The Many Household Compound for Recalling Past Suffering and Thinking over Present Happiness, an inscription in the calligraphy of Hu Jieqing, the 88-year-old widow of the celebrated writer, Lao She. Beside the gate is an imitation rickshaw. Inside the compound a boy is busy polishing shoes for customers, and songs sung in the voice typical of Beijing opera are heard from a tape recorder. "Hello! Please come in!" The usherette wearing a red jacket and a dark skirt would come up to greet you warmly as if you were an old neighbour of hers. The small compound is cluttered. The windows of the main house are pasted with paper-cut decorations, the windowsills are piled with strings of golden ears of corn, and at the foot of the wall are pottery jars and gunny sacks of different sizes with the auspicious character "happiness" pasted on them upright or upside down. On the wall hang bundles of sorghum and garlic, hoes and whips. By the door is a well with a windlass. How could a person check himself and not fall into reminiscing once he is in such a compound redolent of the old Beijing?

Once you enter the compound, you will feel at home if you are an old native of Beijing. Here young people will feel they have been transported back into an old time zone, but most of the customers come here with the purpose to seek the special flavour of old Beijing. Foreigners come here for a taste of old Beijingers' plain tea and simple food. While those on business trips to the capital from other parts of the country also come to gather in the compound to refresh their memories of Beijing's local conditions and customs, which they have not seen for some time.

The Black Earth Restaurant and Laosanjie Restaurant

The Black Earth Restaurant and Laosanjie Restaurant, located in Hepingli, are the dining places for the students who were called educated youths and sent to do farm work in the countryside during the "cultural revolution". These restaurants provide a good opportunity for those former students

連部
養浩然正氣
極風雲壯觀
蹉跎是財富
苦難是黃金

1

防違鐵鋼設律

2

—毛主席语录—
忙时吃干，
闲时吃稀。

为贫困地区的孩子献爱心
廣闊天地

to gather together, who would be immediately reminded of their past experiences at the sight of the decorations.

Upon entering the Black Earth Restaurant, the customer's attention is attracted to the plank wall in the dining room, on which are pasted many name cards of those who used to be fighters of the Agricultural Reclamation Corps in Heilongjiang, one of China's three northeastern provinces. On the cards are clearly written the person's present work unit and position as well as what company or team they were members of, and what post they held when they were in the Agricultural Reclamation Corps. The dining room is where the fighters gather as old comrades-in-arm to recall the unforgettable times they spent together in the Northeast. Hence the name "The Home of Fighters of the Reclamation Corps".

On the other walls of the dining room are pasted propaganda posters on Mao Zedong's call for students to go and settle in the countryside during the "cultural revolution", and photos of the Reclamation Corps sowing seeds and harvesting crops. Also on the walls are pickaxes, sickles and straw hats the students once used on the reclamation farms. The restaurant also has special separate rooms with four walls constructed with pine barks. A portrait of Mao Zedong hangs at the centre of the northern wall, and on an adjacent wall is a propaganda poster bearing the slogan: "A vast world where much can be accomplished!" In the middle of the room is a three-metre long table of thick plank with large wooden benches around it. Entering the room, one feels immediately thrown back to the Great Northern Wilderness in Heilongjiang. Served in the room are original Beidacang brand wine and northeastern dishes such as pork stewed with noodles made from bean starch, chicken stewed with mushroom, and pickled Chinese cabbage with pork intestine.

Laosanjie Restaurant is similar to the Black Earth and the Laocha in interior decoration and cuisine. This restaurant is set up for those who were middle school leavers in the years from 1966 to 1968, to recall how they were sent to the countryside to "receive re-education from the poor and lower-middle peasants" during the "cultural revolution". Inside the restaurant is a room called "The Poor and Lower-Middle Peasants' Association Office". On the windowsill is an old radio. Also put in the room are Dashengchan (Big Production) brand cigarettes, a village broadcasting station, a sickle, a pickaxe, and a little blackboard with a quotation from Mao Zedong. In the "Company Headquarters" room there is hand-telephone, through which the manager receives many old pals everyday. The Gengwu Dining Hall, similar to "The Many Household Compound", provides mainly Beijing food. Waiters stand at the door. As soon as you enter, a waiter will toss a white towel to his shoulder and greet you, "Please take a seat inside." You can sit on a long wooden bench and order whatever you like to eat.

1. Above the doorway are the two characters for "Company Headquarters". The calligraphy on the wall is the work of contemporaries of the "cultural revolution" who served in the Production and Construction Corps.
2. Black Earth regulars: many customers are former fighters from the Agricultural Reclamation Corps based in Heilongjiang, as revealed from the name cards on the board near the entrance of Black Earth Restaurant.
3. A rich array of tasty traditional village dishes, stand in contrast to Mao Zedong's quotation on the wall behind: food scarcity and eating according to one's work routine.
4. "Cultural revolution": Laocha Restaurant with nostalgic rural decoration. A donation box on the left is marked for children in poor districts.
5. Sharing the past: a simple meal comprising a few dishes will last for several hours, as old friends catch up on news.

Prosperous Business and Long Queues

The dining room is not very large. If you haven't made a reservation beforehand, you have to queue up and wait. Since its opening, the restaurant has been verv busy with no slack season. The business at noon and in the evening, in particular, is surprisingly brisk. Beijing people often come to dine here. When visitors come, they are mostly old friends reuniting, a family reunion of three or five members two young people in love, or a young couple celebrating a happy event. Whatever the occasion, they all come to this restaurant to enjoy themselves, even although the tea is plain and the food simple. No wonder, overseas Chinese when they visit Beijing, also come to these places to rekindle past memories. When aged people dine in this restaurant, they neither move quickly nor show any unusual emotion. They just order a few dishes they have had for more than half their lifetime, chewing the food carefully before slowly swallowing, and letting their train of thoughts run its own course. With just a few dishes, they might even remain seated there for several long hours. When young people gather in the restaurant, they are enthusiastic about everything; both the environment and the food are novel to them. The fighters of the Reclamation Corps and the 1966-68 middle school leavers all are now in their middle age. When they meet in the restaurant, they would taste the food they had many years ago, and drink the wine they drank then to boost their courage in order to walk in the wilderness at night. The sight of the restaurant would strike a chord in their heart, reminding them of their vivid youth. Today, although the hair on their temples is turning grey, they always think fondly of those days, irrespective of their present vicissitudes. Whether their future hales bright or dull, the theme restaurants are the best places for them to relive and cherish the past....

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

Hangzhou Goldfish

PHOTOS BY ZHANG KEQING
TEXT BY CHEN MINGZHAO

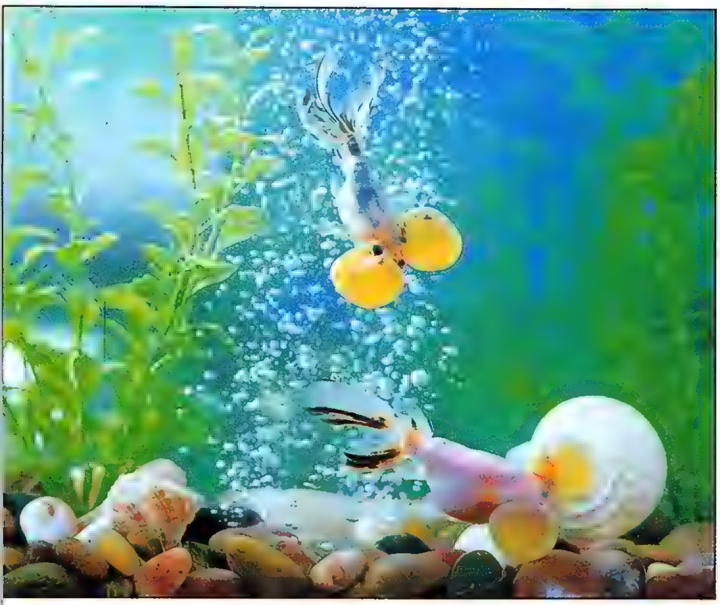
China is the home of goldfish, and the Chinese goldfish originated from Hangzhou.

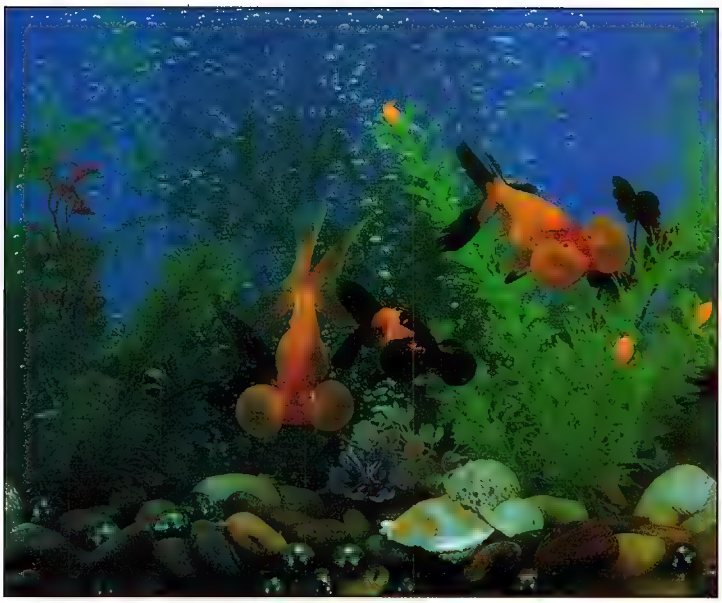
According to research, as early as 1,000 years ago wild goldfish were found in Hangzhou. They were in red and yellow colours, and had evolved from the grey crucian carp.

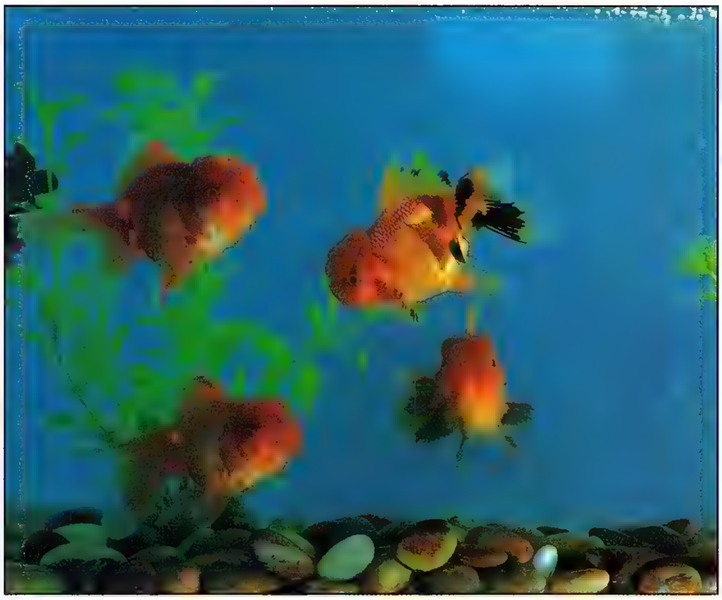
Because of their beautiful colour, they were regarded as holy fish and taken home by people to be raised in ponds, vats or basins. People selected those which were strange in shape or in unconventional colours for breeding. This was done repeatedly for a few hundred years. Now Hangzhou goldfish have more than 200 different kinds of rare species. Each species has its own unique shape. Some have a large head, a small tail or a plump body, like the Tiger Head, Swallow Tail, Red Head and Purple Robe, which are elegant and poised. Some are small and pretty but with a large tail, like Red Crane Head, Pearl Fish, Phoenix Tail and the Dragon Eye. Some are bright-coloured, like Red Lion Head and the Coloured Woollen Embroidered Ball; and others are simple and elegant, like Red Skirt Fringe and Water-bulb Eye. Rare species include the Black Dragon Eye, Dragon Eye, Upturned Cheek, Facing-sky Dragon and Egg Ball.

Every household in Hangzhou raises goldfish. In some scenic spots there are many fish ponds for enjoyment. At the scenic spot of Watching Goldfish at Flower Harbour in the famous West Lake, a zigzag bridge spans the fish pond, and flowers of four seasons grow on the shore of the pond. Enjoying flowers and viewing fish is a great treat here for visitors. At the Fish Amusement Garden on the Jade Spring Hill, goldfish ponds are built among pavilions, platforms, towers and chambers from where visitors may lean on rails to view the goldfish while sipping Hangzhou tea. The Goldfish Hall in the zoo has the most species of goldfish. In addition, the Lesser Yingzhou Islet at the Three Pools Mirroring the Moon in the West Lake and the Cultural Village at the Gold Sand Port are both ideal places for viewing goldfish.

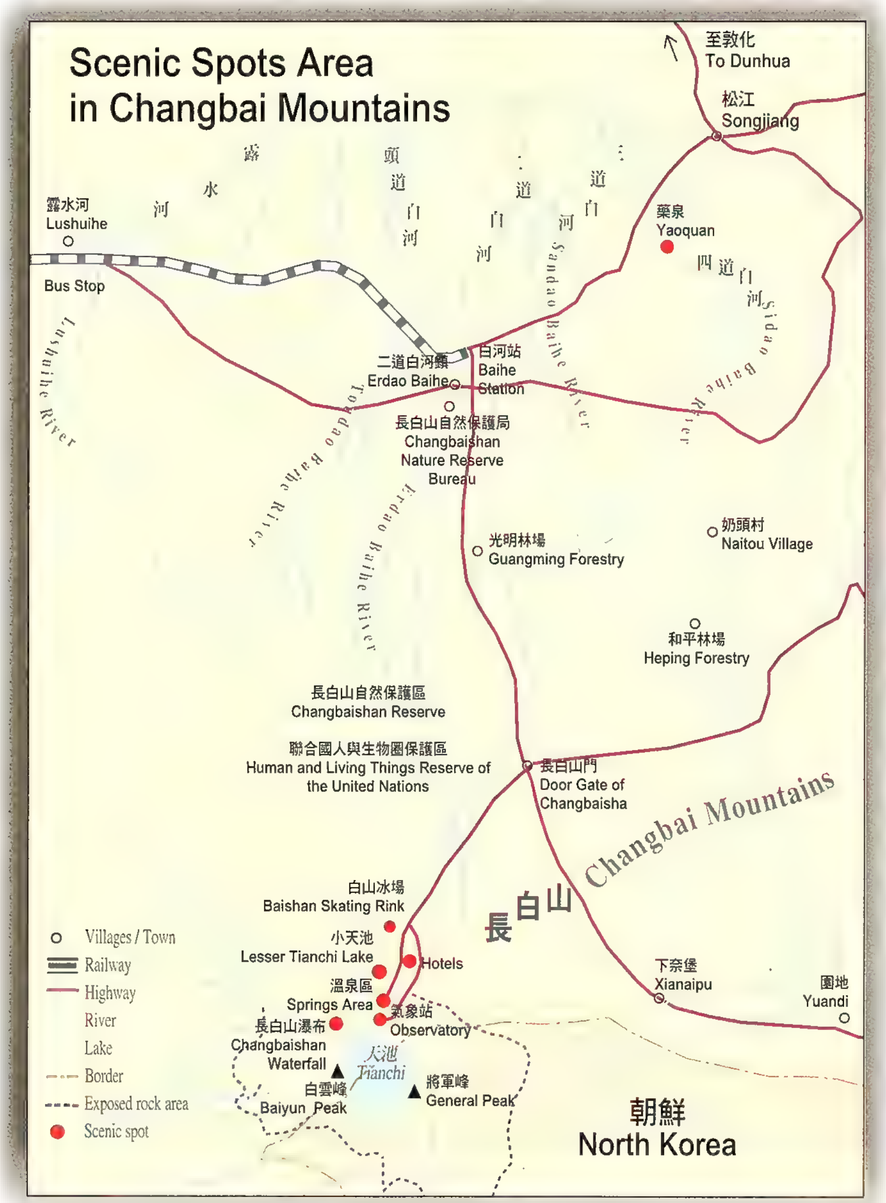
Translated by M.Q.







Tips for a Winter Tour of Changbai Mountains



The Changbai Mountain range is situated where the northeastern part of Jilin Province borders on Korea. Its main peak stands 2,691 metres above sea level; the mountaintop volcanic vent is the famous Tianchi Lake. July and August are the best season for mountaineers. In winter, which is long, with frequent copious snowfalls this part of the world becomes a land of ice, creating a unique scenery craved by visitors from afar.

The Optimum Time

December, January and February should definitely be avoided. Time your tour for March, April, October and November. March proves to be the best month because temperatures are moderately cold, with the old accumulations of snow covered by a fresh snowfall.

The Routes

You may set off from Changchun or Jilin and change train at Tonghua for the trip to Erdaobaihe Town, where you may enter the mountains by bus. Or you may take the northern route direct to Antu or Yanji by way of Dunhua for bus services to Erdaobaihe Town. Alternatively, you may also fly from Changchun to Yanji. Mudanjiang and Shenyang also operate train services to the town.

Accommodation

There are a number of well-equipped hotels and guesthouses at Erdaobaihe Town. At the Mairensong Hotel, which offers a good service, a double room costs about 100 yuan a night. Not far from the Hot Springs there is a cluster of hotels, such as the Dujuan Mountain Villa and the Changbai Mountain Villa, which offer clean and comfortable rooms for those wanting to marvel at the waterfall or climb up the mountains.

Food

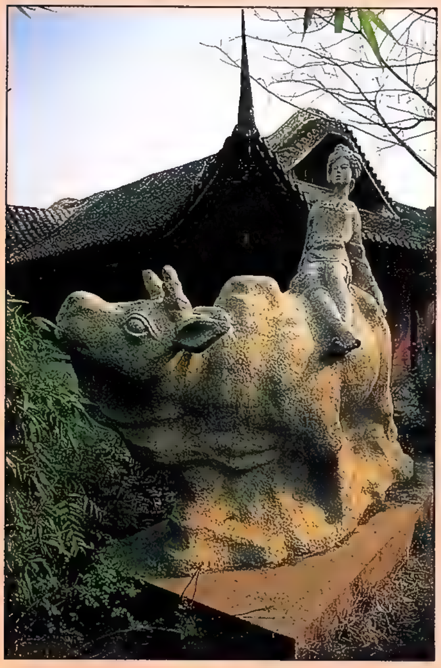
It is likely that in winter hotels in the mountains are not in a position to receive excessive numbers of guests. It is therefore preferable for tourists to buy some fast food at Erdaobaihe Town before they head for the mountains.

Precautions

Be sure to have more than five companions if you choose to visit Tianchi Lake on the top of the mountains but it is best to have a guide. Bring enough food and long ropes, and do not forget to wear warm clothing, shoes and leather hats. Never stay on the mountaintop for the night. When touring the hot springs and the waterfalls it is vital not to stray far from the main roads; on uncharted turf, you should check what lies below the snow and how deep the snow is.

Highlights of the Three Gorges

The Three Gorges, namely Qutang Gorge, Wuxia Gorge and Xiling Gorge, are situated in the middle reaches of the Yangtse River between Baidi City, in Fengjie County, Sichuan Province in the west and Nanjin Pass of Yichang City, Hubei Province in the east. This stretch runs for 193 kilometres, and within this distance the gorges are arranged such that the valleys and gorges are narrow and wide by turn. Because of this topography, the momentum of the river is pent-up in the narrow valleys and released abruptly in the gorges. In those bottle-necks, water rushes down swiftly and wildly like an angry, roaring beast. Travelling on board a ship through this part of the Yangtse, allows anyone sightseeing along the rolling waters to admire the strange and grotesquely shaped rock formations, magnificent mountains and poems inscribed by ancient scholars.



Baidi City's Sichuan girl on an ox statue

Baidi City

Or City of the White Emperor, and also known as City of Poems as celebrated for its beauty by numerous poets contemporary and ancient, is located on a cliff directly on the northern side of Qutang Gorge. It is surrounded by the river on three sides and backed by a mountain. In Baidi City, stands a statue of a Sichuan girl sitting on the back of an ox singing the local folk Bamboo Songs of the Three Gorges. It is said that the city was founded by Gongsun Shu in A.D.25 during the Han Dynasty when he declared himself the White Emperor.

Qutang Gorge

Eight kilometres in length, this is the shortest and narrowest of the three. Its entrance is Kuimen Pass, a bottle-neck of the Yangtse River. Entering Kuimen Pass, Mount Chijia (Bare-backed Soldier) faces directly on the north bank and Mount Baiyan (White Salt) on the southern bank. The former calls to mind a soldier without his top amour, hence the name Chijia. The latter is so named because of its silvery colour irrespective of weather, fine or overcast.

Wushan County

Is wedged between Qutang Gorge and Wuxia Gorge. Here, tourists may unboard from their boat and a take an excursion upstream on the 300-kilometre-long Daning River, the Yangtse's chief tributary serving the Three Gorges, and discover the Lesser Three Gorges. The 50-kilometre-long stretch from Longmen Gorge in the south to Tujiaba in the north is even narrower than the Three Gorges' Kuimen Pass, and forms the first of the Lesser Three Gorges, leading into Bawu Gorge and Dicui Gorge.

Wuxia Gorge

40 kilometres long, Wuxia covers Wushan County in Sichuan and Hubei Province's Badong County. In the area of Qingshi Town, there are the twelve peaks: Jixian, Songluan, Shennü, Zhaoyun, Shengquan, Denglong, Feifeng, Cuiping, Juhe, Jingtan, Qiyun and Shangkai. The best-known is Shennü (Fairy) Peak, the graceful shape of which resembles a girl looking down at the boats in the river.

Shennii Peak

Shennong Stream

This 60-kilometre-long tributary joins the Yangtse River at Xirangkou in Hubei's Badong County. The stream allows watersports such "Gliding in Water" on the 20-kilometre stretch that passes along the Mianzhu, Yingwu and Longchangdong Gorges. The boat ride starts from the four-kilometre-long Mianzhu Gorge and then enters the main stream of the Shennong, gliding over the cobble-strewn river bed.

Xiling Gorge

The longest of the three, its 75 kilometres lie enclosed within Hubei. This gorge is full of rapids and dangerous shoals, in particular Xietan, Qingtan and Kongling known as the Three Shoals of Xiling. Sailing down about five kilometres past Qingtan Shoal, there are many waterfalls such as Jiuwanxi Waterfall at Ox Liver and Horse Lung Gorge, especially spectacular during the rainy season.

Gezhou Dam

Completed in 1989, this dam has several sluice gates used for irrigation during drought seasons, and for generating electricity. The locks along the dam makes the boat ride through this section a tourist attraction in itself.

The impressive sluice gates of Gezhou Dam

Average Climatic Conditions in Hunan, Shanxi, Hebei, Jilin, Sichuan, Henan and Hubei

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Hunan	Changsha	Temperature (°C)	4.7	6.2	10.9	16.8	21.6	25.9	29.3	28.7	24.2	18.5	12.5	7.1
		Rainfall (mm)	59.1	87.8	139.8	201.8	230.8	188.9	112.5	116.9	62.7	81.4	63.0	45.3
	Hengyang	Temperature (°C)	5.6	7.0	11.6	17.4	22.2	26.4	29.8	29.1	25.1	19.4	13.4	8.1
		Rainfall (mm)	60.9	90.4	137.5	192.0	213.2	182.2	86.3	117.4	43.6	82.1	74.9	57.0
Shanxi	Taiyuan	Temperature (°C)	-6.6	-3.1	3.7	11.4	17.7	21.7	23.5	21.8	16.1	9.9	2.1	-4.9
		Rainfall (mm)	3.0	6.0	10.3	23.8	30.1	52.6	118.3	103.6	64.3	30.8	13.2	3.4
Hebei	Shijiazhuang	Temperature (°C)	-2.9	-0.4	6.6	14.6	20.9	25.6	26.6	25.0	20.3	13.7	5.7	-0.9
		Rainfall (mm)	3.2	7.8	11.4	25.7	33.1	49.3	139.0	168.5	58.9	31.7	17.0	4.5
Jilin	Jilin	Temperature (°C)	-18.0	-14.3	-3.7	6.7	14.7	19.9	22.9	21.2	14.7	6.5	-3.9	-13.4
		Rainfall (mm)	5.4	6.2	12.5	31.5	53.3	104.3	194.9	133.9	68.0	42.2	15.6	6.4
	Tianchi Lake	Temperature (°C)	-23.2	-21.5	-16.6	-8.1	-0.9	4.0	8.6	8.1	1.5	-5.5	-13.6	-20.6
		Rainfall (mm)	12.7	14.5	36.0	73.2	106.5	186.7	346.2	307.3	138.6	51.2	41.5	18.3
Sichuan	Chengdu	Temperature (°C)	5.6	7.6	12.1	17.0	21.1	23.7	25.8	25.1	21.4	16.7	12.0	7.3
		Rainfall (mm)	5.0	11.4	21.0	51.1	88.3	119.4	228.9	265.8	113.5	47.9	16.5	6.4
	Chongqing	Temperature (°C)	8.0	9.9	14.0	18.7	22.6	25.0	28.6	28.9	24.7	19.2	14.2	10.5
		Rainfall (mm)	19.0	21.0	43.0	73.0	155.0	165.0	151.0	141.0	132.0	99.0	51.0	25.0
Henan	Anyang	Temperature (°C)	-1.8	1.0	7.4	14.8	21.0	25.9	26.9	25.4	20.7	14.5	6.8	0.2
		Rainfall (mm)	3.7	9.0	14.5	29.5	37.0	57.8	186.4	147.0	56.7	36.5	21.6	6.5
	Luoyang	Temperature (°C)	0.3	2.7	8.6	15.4	21.3	26.6	27.5	26.2	21.2	15.3	8.3	2.3
		Rainfall (mm)	6.9	12.5	25.4	45.1	47.0	66.3	141.5	95.8	74.7	46.0	30.6	9.3
	Kaifeng	Temperature (°C)	-0.5	1.8	7.5	14.6	20.7	25.9	27.1	25.9	21.0	15.0	7.7	1.4
		Rainfall (mm)	6.4	10.4	24.2	43.6	43.4	81.3	166.6	118.9	64.3	39.4	26.4	9.4
	Zhengzhou	Temperature (°C)	-0.3	2.2	7.8	14.9	21.0	26.2	27.3	25.8	20.9	15.1	7.8	1.7
		Rainfall (mm)	8.6	12.5	26.8	53.7	42.9	68.0	154.4	119.3	71.0	43.8	30.5	9.5
Hubei	Wuhan	Temperature (°C)	8.0	9.0	10.0	14.0	20.0	25.0	30.0	30,0	25.0	20.0	12.0	10.0
		Rainfall (mm)	30.0	50.0	100.0	150.0	160.0	200.0	130.0	100.0	90.0	60.0	50.0	40.0

Train Schedules
Beijing — Yuanping — Taiyuan

387 O.	Train No. / Station	388 O.
08:45	**Beijing**	06:18
08:50	**Fengtai**	05:58
21:08	**Yanshan**	05:09
21:30	**Shidu**	—
22:19	**Baijian**	03:44
23:12	**Laiyuan**	02:13
00:13	**Lingqiu**	00:56
02:10	**Wutaishan**	23:30
03:38	**Fansi**	22:59
04:54	**Daixian**	22:30
05:22	**Yuanping**	21:47
05:51	**Xinzhou**	21:05
06:43	**Taiyuan East**	19:39
07:21	**Taiyuan**	19:30

O. — Ordinary passenger train

Train Schedules
Shanghai — Guiyang — Chongqing

151 F.T.	71/74 Exp.	Train No. / Station	72/73 Exp.	152 F.T.
11:25	17:40	**Shanghal**	12:20	07:00
15:10	20:52	**Hangzhou East**	09:12	03:26
19:10	00:35	**Jinhua**	05:14	23:31
02:44	07:04	**Yingtan**	22:52	15:44
12:20	15:29	**Zhuzhuo**	14:12	05:46
13:12	16:10	**Xiangtan**	13:20	04:54
22:54	00:42	**Huaihua**	04:54	19:40
01:07	02:55	**Yuping**	02:50	17:31
04:21	05:54	**Kaili**	23:53	14:31
06:42	—	**Guiding**	—	12:33
08:27	09:41	**Guiyang**	20:18	10:48
	13:06	**Zunyi**	16:46	
	17:56	**Qijiang**	12:14	
	19:48	**Chongqing**	10:11	

F.T. — Fast through passenger train

Train Schedules
Zhengzhou — Xi'an

95 Exp.	Train No. / Station	96 Exp.
13:30	**Zhengzhou**	19:23
15:31	**Luoyang**	17:31
17:31	**Sanmenxia**	15:31
18:08	**Sanmenxia West**	15:00
20:01	**Mengyuan**	—
21:04	**Weinan**	12:10
—	**Lintong**	11:36
21:55	**Xi'an**	10:50

Exp. — Express train

Train Schedules
Beijing — Shenyang — Changchun — Harbin — Qiqihar

59 Exp.	57/56 Exp.	39 Exp.	17 Exp.	Train No. / Station	18 Exp.	40 Exp.	58/55 Exp.	60 Exp.
	From Shanghai						To Shanghai	
20:48	—	20:32	15:50	**Beijing**	13:10	06:32	—	10:50
*	03:47	22:19	*	**Tianjin**	*	04:55	09:38	*
01:25	07:33	01:53	20:06	**Shanhaiguan**	09:06	01:24	05:49	06:21
03:45	09:53	04:10	—	**Jinzhou**	—	22:58	03:22	03:55
—	—	07:20	—	**Shenyang**	—	20:02	—	—
07:00	13:10	—	01:22	**Shenyang North**	03:53	—	00:23	00:47
11:05	17:27	11:28	05:12	**Changchun**	00:01	15:52	20:04	20:25
	21:16	15:10	08:40	**Harbin**	20:40	12:20	16:27	
	21:28	—	08:52	**Harbin East**	20:07	—	15:40	
		19:20		**Qiqihar**		07:50		

* — via the Beijing–Qinhuangdao line

Train Schedules
Changsha — Zhuzhou — Loudi — Shaoyang

313 O.	311 O.	Train No. / Station	312 O.	314 O.
23:30	08:52	**Changsha**	20:35	14:40
00:39	—	**Zhuzhou**	—	13:46
—	09:38	**Qingshuitang**	19:39	—
—	09:58	**Xiangtan East**	19:17	13:00
01:20	10:14	**Xiangtan**	19:03	12:44
02:09	11:05	**Xiangxiang**	17:57	11:44
03:08	12:01	**Qiziqiao**	16:49	10:40
04:08	12:54	**Loudi**	16:17	10:15
05:06	13:54	**Santangpu**	15:06	09:01
05:42	14:35	**Lianqiao**	14:38	08:33
06:01	14:55	**Shaodong**	14:19	08:17
06:35	15:30	**Shaoyang**	13:35	07:40

Major Hotels in Henan, Hubei, Shandong, Sichuan and Jilin

Zhengzhou, Henan

Dukang Hotel
杜康大酒店
178 Tongbai Road, Zhengzhou, Henan
Tel: 776888
Located 8 km from airport, 3.5 km from railway station

Haitian Hotel
海天大酒店
288 Chengdong Road, Zhengzhou, Henan
Tel: 559988
Located 30 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Huanghe Hotel
黃河飯店
106 Zhongyuan Road, Zhengzhou, Henan 450052
Tel: 7005 Telex: 46020
Fax: 772235
261 rooms and suites
Located 7 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurant, bar, coffee shop, disco, beauty salon

International Hotel Henan
河南國際飯店

114 Jinshui Avenue, Zhengzhou, Henan 450003
Tel: 556600, 550161 Telex: 46061 HNZIN CN
Fax: (0371) 551526
GM: Zhao Zhengyi
Opened October 1981
250 rooms and suites
Located 3 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, conference centre, clinic, shopping arcade, coffee shop, disco, gym, sauna, massage, billiard room

Regent Mansion
麗晶大廈
Jinshui Road, Zhengzhou, Henan
Tel: 356600
Located 2 km from airport, 5 km from raiway station

Tianyuan Hotel
田園酒店
Yima Road, Zhengzhou, Henan
Tel: 669898
Located 6 km from airport, 500 m from railway station

Zhengzhou Asia Hotel
鄭州亞細亞大酒店
Erqi Square, Zhengzhou, Henan
Tel: 668866
Located 3.5 km from airport, 1 km from railway station

Zhengzhou Grand Hotel
鄭[illegible]大酒店
93 Datong Road, Zhengzhou, Henan
Tel: 668888
Located 6 km from airport, next to the railway station

Luoyang, Henan

Dongfang Hotel
東方賓館
182 Jianshe Road, Luoyang, Henan 471000
Tel: 221691
Located 20 km from airport, 8 km from railway station

Friendship Guesthouse
友誼賓館
6 Xiyuan Road, Luoyang, Henan 471003
Tel: 412780
Located 19 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Garden Hotel
花園大酒店
Nanchang Road, Luoyang, Henan 471000
Tel: 221681
Located 20 km from airport, 8 km from railway station

Luokuang Hotel
洛礦賓館
Chongqing Road, Luoyang, Henan 471003
Tel: 335391
Located 16 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Luoyang Guesthouse
洛陽市迎賓館
6 Renmin Road West, Luoyang, Henan
Tel: 335414
Located 23 km from airport, 10 km from railway station

Mudan Hotel
牡丹大酒店
15 Zhongzhou Road West, Luoyang, Henan
Tel: 413669
Located 17 km from airport, 6 km from railway station

Kaifeng, Henan

Dongjing Hotel
東京大飯店
14 Yingbin Road, Kaifeng, Henan 475000
Tel: 555544
Located near the airport, 2 km from railway station

Dongyuan Hotel
東苑大酒店
Xinsong Road, Kaifeng, Henan
Located 1 km from railway station

Kaifeng Hotel
開封賓館

64 Ziyou Road Central, Kaifeng, Henan 475000
Tel: (0378) 555589
GM: Zhang Jianhua
Opened 1953
188 romms
Located 60 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Karaoke, dancing hall, coffee shop,bar

Dengfeng County, Henan

Songshan Hotel
嵩山賓館
117 Zhongyue Avenue, Dengfeng, Henan 452470
Tel: 72755, 73744
GM: Liu Junfeng
Opened 1979
64 rooms and suites
Located near the airport and railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, ballroom, big and small conference rooms, bar, karaoke

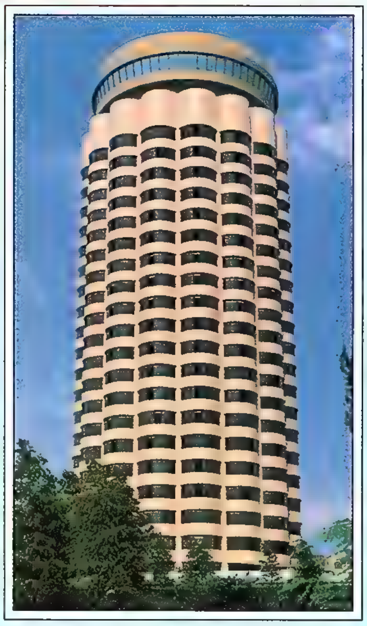
Wuhan, Hubei

Lijiang Hotel
湖北麗江飯店
1 Tiyuguan Road, Wuchang, Hubei 430071
Tel: 713668 Telex: 400282
Fax: 713638
Opened 1 November 1990
126 rooms and suites
Located 6 km from airport
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet room, bar, business centre, billiard rooms, beauty salon, shopping arcade, clinic, disco

Qingchuan Hotel
晴川飯店

88 Ximachang Street, Hanyang, Wuhan 430050
Tel: 446688, 444181 Telex: 41034 HBQC CN
Fax: (027) 564964
GM: Jiang Wu Yi
Opened July 1984
300 rooms and suites
Located in the city centre, 15 km from airport, 13 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, meeting rooms, business centre, bar, billiard room, sauna, beauty salon, massage, clinic, gym, tennis court, karaoke

Wuhan Asia Hotel
武漢亞洲大酒店



300 Jiefang Avenue, Wuhan, Hubei 430030
Tel: (027) 568777, 566245 Fax: (027) 559372, 556786
265 rooms and suites
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, revolving restaurant, conference room, banquet room,

swimming pool, karaoke, disco, nightclub, bar, sauna, massage, shopping arcade

Yangtze Hotel

[illegible]
539 Jiefang Avenue, Hankou, Wuhan, Hubei 430030
Tel: 562828   Telex: 40204 (40205) YGHTE CN
Fax: 554110
GM: Iron Chung
Opened 28 April 1987
205 rooms and suites
Located in the heart of Wuhan, 12 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, banquet room, karaoke, disco, beauty salon, billiard room, clinic, games room, business centre, bar

Yichang, Hubei

Taohualing Hotel

桃花嶺飯店
29 Yunji Road, Yichang, Hubei 443000
Tel: (0717) 222515   Fax: 445701
GM: Xianyu Kaiguo
Opened 1 October 1957
275 rooms
Located in the heart of the city, 25 km from airport, 0.7 km from railway station
Facilities: Business centre, dance hall, bar, karaoke, gym, billiard room, massage, beauty salon, health club

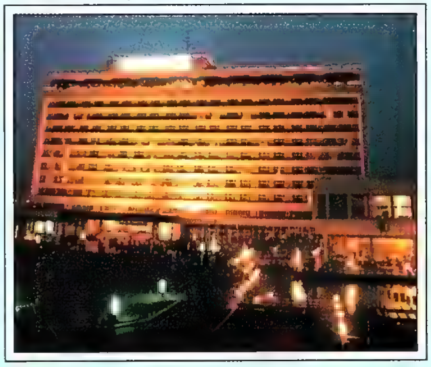
Three Gorges Hotel

三[illegible]賓館
38 Yanjiang Road, Yichang, Hubei 443000
Tel: 224911, 223438   Telex: 40253 YSXBG CN
Fax: (0717) 442025
GM: Lee Mingyi
Opened October 1986
132 rooms and suites
Located 10 km from airport, 2.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, dance hall, bar, shopping arcade

Jinan, Shandong

Jinan Hotel

[illegible]
240 Jingsan Road, Jinan, Shandong 250021
Tel: (0531) 7938981, 7938985   Telex: 39106 TSHJN CN
Fax: (0531) 732906
GM: Zhang Shangying
Opened 1958
73 rooms
Located in the heart of downtown, 6 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet rooms, billiard room, bar, function room, shopping arcade, beauty salon



Qilu Hotel

齊魯賓館
8 Qianfoshan Road, Jinan, Shandong 250014
Tel: (0531) 2966888   Telex: 39142 QLHJN CN
Fax: (0531) 613524
GM: Wang Zhixian
Opened 15 April 1986
246 rooms and suites
Located at the foot of Qianfo Mountain south of the city, 15 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, bar, ballroom, tennis court, karaoke, disco, gym, billiard room, sauna, massage

Shungeng Hillview Hotel

[illegible]
1 Shungeng Road, Jinan, Shandong 250014
Tel: 6915901   Telex: 39184 MTCJN CN
Fax: (0531) 615288
GM: Zou Benzi
Opened August 1985
130 rooms
Located 9.7 km from city centre, 30 min from airport, 15 min from railway station
Facilities: Business centre, conference room, function hall, shopping arcade, billiard room, gym, beauty salon, clinic

Qingdao, Shandong

Badaguan Hotel Qingdao

[illegible]

19 Shanhaiguan Road, Qingdao, Shangdong 266071
Tel: 3872168   Telex: 32224 BDGHL CN
Fax: (0532) 371383
GM: Zheng Huai
Opened 3 June 1949
260 rooms
Located in city centre, 32 km from airport, 6 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Japanese restaurants, banquet room, business centre, souvenir shop, bar, indoor swimming pool, sauna, function hall, beauty salon, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, tennis court, billiard room

Dongfang Hotel

[illegible]
4 Daxue Road, Qingdao, Shandong 266003
Tel: 2865888   Telex: 321221 DFHQD CN
Fax: 262741
GM: Qu Ruci
Opened 26 December 1989
132 rooms and suites
Located 33 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, coffee shop, beauty salon, dance hall, shopping arcade

Haitian Hotel

海天大酒店

39 Zhanshan Avenue, Qingdao, Shandong 266071
Tel: 3871888, 3866415   Telex: 321014 QDHTH CN
Fax: 371152, 371777
GM: Xin Keting
Opened 28 October 1988
700 rooms and suites
Facilities: Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Western restaurants, 500-seat banquet room, 800-seat conference hall, business centre, karaoke, disco, indoor swimming pool, sauna, gym, tennis court, billiard room, AMF bowling centre

Huanghai Hotel

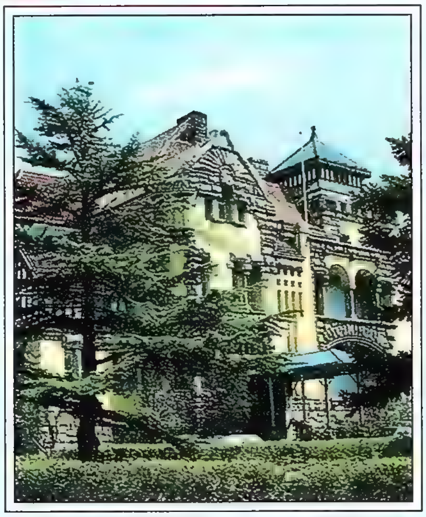
[illegible]
75 First Yan'an Road, Qingdao, Shandong 266003
Tel: (0532) 2870215   Telex: 32151 BOOTH CN
Fax: (0532) 279795
GM: Zhai Shende
Opened 18 May 1983
350 rooms
Located in city centre, 35 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Japanese restaurants, conference halls and rooms, multi-function hall, business centre, dance hall, karaoke, billiard room, gym, shopping arcade, beauty salon, clinic

Huiquan Dynasty Hotel

[illegible]
9 Nanhai Road, Qingdao, Shandong 266003
Tel: 2879279   Telex: 32178 HQDTY CN
Fax: 279220
GM: Werner Katte
Opened 3 August 1986
500 rooms
Located near Badaguan Scenic Area and commercial centre with a picturesque view of Huiquan Bay, 35 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Revolving restaurant, business centre, tennis courts, bowling, indoor swimming pool, gym, sauna

Qingdao Guest House

[illegible]



26 Longshan Road, Qingdao, Shandong 266003
Tel: (0532) 2866120, 2865465   Telex: 32180 YBGQD CN
Fax: (0532) 261985
GM: Fu Tian
Opened 1903
10 suites
Located in the heart of city, 28 km from airport, 2.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Business centre, meeting room, shopping arcade, karaoke, dance hall, billiard room

Qingdao Ocean Hotel

[illegible]
61 Zhanliugan Road, Qingdao, Shandong 266071
Tel: 5815188   Telex: 32237 COSQD CN
Fax: (0532) 515198
GM: Dong Qingbo
100 rooms and suites
Located 30 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet room, meeting rooms, billiard room, karaoke, ballroom, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Zhuzhou, Hunan

Qingyun Hotel

[illegible]
1 Chezhan Road, Zhuzhou, Hunan 412008
Tel: 24851, 22951 Telex: 995011 QYCZH CN

Fax: 0733-25336
GM: Xie Yixi
Opened 25 December 1987
300 rooms and suites
Located opposite the railway station, 70 km from airport
Facilities: 4 restaurants (800 seats), business centre, coffee shop, beauty salon, karaoke, gym

Hengyang, Hunan

Huiyan Hotel

回雁賓館
26 Guangdong Road, Hengyang, Hunan
Located near railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, souvenir shop

Yueyang, Hunan

Yueyang International Building

岳陽國際大廈

Nanhu Avenue, Yueyang, Hunan 414000
Tel: 224811 Telex: 994015 ZBYCS CN
Fax: 223637
GM: Liao Hong'an
Opened 24 January 1988
284 rooms and suites
Located 120 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Shopping arcade, dance hall, karaoke, beauty salon, clinic

Chengdu, Sichuan

Chengdu Grand Hotel

成都大酒店
29 Section 2, Renmin Road North, Chengdu, Sichuan 610081
Tel: 3333888   Telex: 600349 CHDGH CN
Fax: 336818
GM: Wang Zize
Opened 8 October 1990
456 rooms and 12 suites
Located 20 km from airport, 200 m from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, karaoke, dance hall, beauty salon, gym, shopping arcade, massage, bar

Chengdu Hotel

成都飯店
East Section of Shudu Road, Chengdu, Sichuan 610066
Tel: 4444112, 4448888
Telex: 60164 CDHOT CN, 600077 CHMKT CN
Fax: 441603
Opened 18 May 1984
310 rooms
Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, international conference hall, business centre, bar, swimming pool, tennis court, billiard room, gym, sauna, massage, clinic, karaoke, disco, coffee shop, function rooms

Jinhe Grand Hotel

成都金河大酒店
18 Jinhe Street, Chengdu, Sichuan 610031
Tel: 6642888   Telex: 600341 JHHTL CN
Fax: (028)632037
GM: Long Guanyin
Opened 15 April 1991
400 rooms and 8 suites
Located 18 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Facilities: Revolving restaurant, banquet hall, conference rooms, bar, karaoke, disco, dance hall, business centre, billiard room

Jinjiang Hotel

四川錦江賓館
36 Section 2, Renmin Road South, Chengdu, Sichuan 610012
Tel: 5582222   Telex: 60109 JJH CN
Fax: 5581849, 5582348
GM: Lou Li Xian
Opened 1962
519 rooms and 57 suites
Located 17 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, swimming pool, karaoke, bar, sauna, beauty salon, disco, tennis court

Minshan Hotel

岷山飯店
17 Section 2, Renmin Road South, Chengdu, Sichuan 610021
Tel: 5583333, 5551384
Telex: 60247 MSH CN, 600033 MSNHL CN
Fax: 582154
Opened 18 January 1988
337 rooms and suites
Located in downtown Chengdu, 16 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet rooms, business centre, shopping centre, dance room, karaoke, gym, sauna, billiard room, beauty salon, swimming pool, tennis court, coffee shop, bar

Tibet Hotel

西藏飯店
10 Renmin Road North, Chengdu, Sichuan 610081
Tel: 3334001   Telex: 60390 THC CN Fax: 333526
436 rooms and suites
Located 20 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, disco, beauty salon, karaoke, function rooms, coffee shop

Zhufeng Hotel Chengdu

成都珠峰賓館
107 Shangxi Shuncheng Street, Chengdu, Sichuan 610015
Tel: 6662441   Telex: 600023 ZHGHO CN
Fax: 671717
Opened 15 March 1988
270 rooms
Located in the city centre, 20 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, bar, karaoke, disco, billiard room, shopping arcade, beauty salon

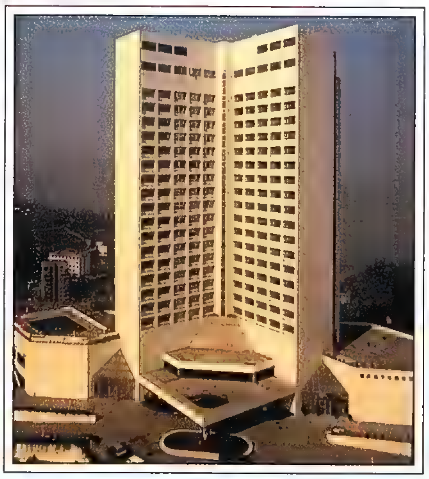
Chongqing, Sichuan

Chongqing Guesthouse

重慶賓館
235 Minsheng Road, Chongqing, Sichuan 630010
Tel: (0811) 345888   Telex: 62122 CQGH CN
Fax: (0811) 330643
GM: Yang Huai
Opened 18 July 1985
265 rooms
Located in downtown Chongqing, 30 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Korean restaurants, business centre, conference rooms, health club, swimming pool, sauna, massage, nightclub, karaoke, dance room, bar, billiard room, mini-golf, beauty salon, shopping arcade

Holiday Inn Yangtze Chongqing

重慶揚子江假日飯店



15 Nanping Beilu, Chongqing, Sichuan 630060
Tel: 203380   Telex: 62220 HIYCQ CN
Fax: 200884
GM: Peter Pollmeier
Opened 24 February 1989
379 rooms and suites
Located 5 km from city centre, 30 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, business centre, disco, karaoke, bar, ballroom (300 persons), outdoor swimming pool, health club, sauna, massage, billiard room, shopping arcade, beauty salon, gym

Yanji, Jilin

Yanbian Baishan Hotel

延邊白山大廈

2 Youyi Road, Yanji, Jilin 133000
Tel: 513225   Fax: 519493
Opened January 1988
503 rooms and suites
Located 3 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Western and Korean restaurants, international club, night club, swimming pool, bowling alley, gym, billiard, massage, mahjong room, business centre, beauty salon, karaoke

Changchun, Jilin

Changchun Overseas Chinese Hotel

長春華僑飯店
1 Hubin Road, Changchun, Jilin 130022
Tel: 688728   Telex: 83082 CCOCH CN
Fax: 686099
Opened 26 May 1991
180 rooms and suites
Located 15 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet rooms, multi-function conference room, lounge, karaoke, dance hall, billiard room, massage, gym, beauty salon, recreation centre, shopping arcade, business centre

EVENTS, BOOKINGS AND CONTACTS

Shoe and Leather '95

Held on June 6 at the China Export Commodities Trade Hall in Guangzhou for the fifth consecutive year. China is the world's largest shoe maker and Guangdong China's premier shoe maker, marked by confident foreign capital and technology investments in the Pearl River region for shoe manufacturing, and the use of more than 50% imported raw materials. Last year's fair attracted over 3,600 overseas purchasers from 12 countries and regions, and over 11,400 domestic visitors signed contracts worth US$10 million. Products at the fair will include production equipment, chemical adhesives, decorative parts, footwear materials and bags.

Shopping China '95

Held on August 14-18 at the China World Trade Centre, Beijing. Sponsors include the Ministry of Internal Trade, P.R.C. and the international department store trade fair is organized by the China World Trade Centre and Reliable Services Company. Shopping China welcomes department stores and manufacturers from home and abroad to participate in the 600 booth trade fair. For more details, contact Miss Huang or Miss Li on Tel: (861)9732237/9732264. Fax: (861)9732257; Mr. Jiang and Yao or Miss Hu on Tel: (861)5053832/5050540, Fax: (861)5053260.

Sino-Plas '95

Held on October 10-14 at Jiangsu Exhibition Centre, Nanjing. Among its five joint organizers are Katchstar Ads and Business Co.Ltd and China National Light Industrial Machinery Corporation. To book your space now, details from these lines: Tel: (852)27502868, Fax: (852)23181641, Telex: 44874 WWXPO HX.

Paper Fair '95

October 16-20 at Beijing Exhibition Centre, Beijing to host The China International Paper, Paper Products Fair. For more details contact China Paper Association at 22 Fuwai Street, Beijing 100833, or on the lines Tel: 00861-8396627/6021994/6084479, Fax: 00861-6084478. Alternative contact: Beijing Katchstar Ads & Business Co. Ltd, Rm 515, Bldg No.16, Qiqu Hepingli, Beijing. Tel: 4278969/4212961 ext. 2735. Fax: 4278969.

BANKING AND FINANCIAL NEWS

Foreign-Funded Banks in Wuhan

Having obtained the approval of the State Council, Wuhan, capital of Central China's Hubei Province, has become an open city in terms of finance. This move is aimed at helping the locality to directly attract more foreign investment, honing its competitive edge, and improving its services and management. Related departments of the city have been working to provide foreign banks such as France and Japan, with assistance in setting up in Wuhan. Hubei provincial government hope to eventually speed up construction of financial markets in Wuhan and build the province into a national financial centre.

Shanghai

Shanghai, home to 33 overseas-funded financial institutions, with 80% of the world's largest banks and 87 foreign-funded financial representative offices, is trying to set up a number of investment banks and intermediate financial institutions this year, to develop the city's currency market.

Shanghai's 6,554 foreign-funded enterprises witnessed a 50.2% increase in profits last year of US$1.01 billion in total profits. The result indicates an overall improvement in the investment environment in Shanghai, together with its enterprise management.

Harbin's US$5 Billion Overseas Aid

Harbin, the capital of Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province is anticipating US$5 billion in overseas funds to help revitalize its 150 State enterprises over the next 15 years. The funds are expected to come from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Western Europe and the U.S., and will be used for retooling enterprises and the introduction of advanced technology, hence bringing opportunities for co-operation between the city and overseas investors. As a leading industrial centre, Harbin hopes to achieve rapid growth in the future. Its present industries include machine-building, electronics, linen and textiles, medicine, foodstuffs such as soybeans, crude oil, metallurgical products, building materials, chemicals, aircraft, instruments, bearings and small cars.

Harbin has upgraded its transport and telecommunications so that its railways are now connected to Europe via the Trans-Siberia Railway.

MARKETING

Shanghai: Adidas and Building Materials

Adidas, one of the world's leading sporting goods manufacturers, has opened a representative office in Shanghai to co-ordinate its marketing efforts in the country. The German company chose Shanghai as its point of entry in China because of the city's large population and its commercial and financial status.

Also new in Shanghai is the Building Materials Market to meet the increasing demand for building materials in Shanghai. Spending on such materials is expected to make up one third of total investment in fixed assets, amounting to US$13.05 billion this year. The market, designed to be an open and multi-functional modern building materials supermarket and exhibition centre, will handle building materials from home and abroad. Most of Shanghai's existing building material retailers are too small to handle large goods. Construction of the market will be in three phases with the first stage covering an area of 7,500 square metres and total investment US$4.51 million. A 2,600-square-metre business hall will open soon and more than 60 conference rooms, a large electronic screen and storehouses will operate. Using a computerized system, the market will be connected to Beijing, Tianjin and other large and medium-sized cities.

NEWS

TOURIST INFORMATION

Guizhou Cuckoo Discounts

These are special discount cards for all tourists entitling holders to discounts in railway, shipping, travel services, catering, commercial, medical, insurance and recreation businesses in Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan provinces and Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest China. The card is issued by the Guizhou Tourism Bureau, the Guizhou Provincial Industrial and Commercial Bank and Guizhou Provincial Insurance Company.

Zhejiang Festival

East China's Zhejiang Province plans to offer nine new large-scale tourist activities this year. They include the Lanting International Calligraphy Festival in Luxi County, the Sino-Japanese Traditional Cultural Exchange Festival, a tour route to dinosaur fossils and the sites of Hemudu and Liangzhu prehistoric cultures. In November, there will be a West Lake international tour boat festival, and on September 9-14, a trip to view the tidal bore on the Qiantang River.

Jiangxi Province

Five new items including a tourist fishing route to Lake Poyang for a taste of the local fishermen life style; August: *wushu* festival on Mount Lushan; October: an international fine porcelain festival in Jingdezhen; November: Tengwangge Pavilion Cultural Art Festival.

Shaanxi Province

Fourteen new tourist programmes this year includes: tours to the No. 2 pit of the terracotta warriors and horses; Mount Huashan; the Museum of the Remains of Prehistoric Banpo Village; Mausoleum of Huangdi, legendary founder of the Chinese nationality; Muslim inhabited areas; a tulip fair and ruins of the Three Kingdoms (220-280).

The Palace of Emperor Xuanyuan

The Palace of Emperor Xuanyuan (Huangdi) is a new scenic spot located in Xinmi City, 37 kilometres from the southwest of Zhengzhou City, Henan. It is divided into three scenic areas with mountains and lakes: Fenghou Eight Battle Arrays Statues, Huangdi Palace and Lovers' Island. The warriors are stone carvings and distributed according to the map of the Eight Battle Arrays. This grand sight of warriors fighting at close quarters against the enemies represents the successful tactic set by Huangdi and Fenghou. Huangdi Palace is a grass, wood and stone construction surrounded by water near Yunyan Palace. Inside the palace, there are three side halls. In the east hall is a naturally formed cave, 13 metres wide, 10 metres in height and seven metres deep, and inside rests two stone statues of Huangdi and Fenghou. Lovers' Island, named after where Huangdi and his wife Leizu first met, covers an area of about 3.3 hectares. While standing on the wall of the old castle, there is a panoramic view of a 200-hectare mulberry field: a historic site where Huangdi's wife, Leizu taught farmers how to plant mulberry. It is an ideal place for vacation with bungalows on the island.

Food and Folk Festival

The 1995 Asian Folk Customs Week will open on September 21-27 in Beijing and celebrate both ancient Chinese civilization and Beijing folklore. It will boost cultural exchanges between China and other Asian countries and regions. Shows such as the Beijing Singing and Dancing Troupe to perform the "Eight Scenic Spots of Beijing" will be held in the World Park and the Chinese Ethnic Culture Park. The week will also include a food festival where 45 city restaurants will offer special Asian food, such as the Tongzhou Snack Festival and Lao She Tea House. Below, we print some of the China Folklore '95 tour packages organized by China International Travel Service (CITS) and China Travel Service (CTS).

China Folklore '95 Package Tours

For further details contact: CITS Head Office (Beijing) sales department for North America and South Pacific. Tel: 86-10-601-2022, Fax: 86-10-601-2021, or CTS Head Office (Beijing). Tel: 86-10-462-2288, Fax: 86-10-461-2501.

China Southwest Discovery Tour, 14-days: Beijing, Xi'an, Guiyang, Kaili, Kunming, Guilin and Hong Kong. Exploring folk customs with visits to ethnic groups such as Han, Manchu, Mongolian, Hui, Miao and Dong Minority Autonomous Prefecture. Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province has many dense ethnic communities with folk handicrafts of batik and hand-embroidery, in addition to Guiyang's magnificent Huangguoshu Waterfall and Tianxing scenic spots. In Kunming's comfortable year round climate, this "City of Eternal Spring" is perpetually blooming with flowers. The Stone Forest near the city is one of the world's most unusual natural wonders. Guilin's Lijiang River offers the world's most splendid karst landscape. In Beijing: the Great Wall, Ming Tombs, Tian'anmen Square and other historic spots. Xi'an: Huaqing Hot Springs.

Roof of the World Tour, 16 days: Beijing, Xi'an, Chengdu, Lhasa, Xigazê and Guangzhou. So-called, this tour takes you to the capital of Tibet Autonomous Region, Lhasa which is nestled in a valley 3,000 metres above sea level. Impressive Buddhist sights include the majestic 1,000-room Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple, Drepung Monastery and Norbulingka Park. In August the Xuedun (Urger) Festival will feature Tibetan Opera and religious sunning the giant Buddha rituals. Chengdu is the capital of Sichuan Province with Marquis Wu Shrine and home of the great Tang-dynasty poet, Du Fu. Also Dujiang Weir, an engineering marvel designed in 250 B.C. as a mammoth irrigation project.

Silk Road Explorer, 17 days: Beijing, Xi'an, Lanzhou, Dunhuang, Turpan, Urumqi and Kashgar. Provides rich scenery and a spectrum of ethnic cultures: Uygur, Kazakhs, Tajiks, Hui and Mongolians. On July 25, there is the major Mongolian festival of Nadam, featuring wrestling, horse racing, archery, dancing and craft fairs. Turpan located at the foot of Tianshan Mountains in the Turpan Depression, remains closest to Uygur culture with the Emin Mosque, Astana Tombs and the Gaochang and Jiaohe ancient city sites. The Grape Festival will be held in August, with Uygur song, dance and music, fruit banquets and camel shows. Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang, is inhabited by 13 of China's 56 nationalities including the Kazakh people who live in their traditional round felt tents called yurts. Also, magnificent natural scenery including Tianchi, Lake of Heaven.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

Stone Age Farmers

Cultural relics at 109 spots scheduled to be flooded by the Xiaolangdi Water-Control Project on the Yellow River, have been discovered by construction workers in the Henan and Shanxi provinces. On-the-spot investigations by archaeologists revealed that the area is home to 80 ruins and graves dating from the New Stone Age (8,000-6,000 B.C.) to the Song Dynasty (960-1279), and will provide researchers with first-hand materials to study the origin of farming along the middle and lower Yellow River.

Symbolic Trigram

Chinese archaeologists have discovered that the underground palace of Famen Temple outside Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, where the holy bones of Sakyamuni were enshrined during the Tang Dynasty (618-907), was built in the style of a mandala. According to Tantrism, a school of Buddhism from seventh century India, a mandala is a symbolic Trigram used in sacred rites and as an instrument of meditation. The mandala is basically a representation of the universe, a consecrated area that serves as a receptacle for the gods, and as a collecting point of universal forces.

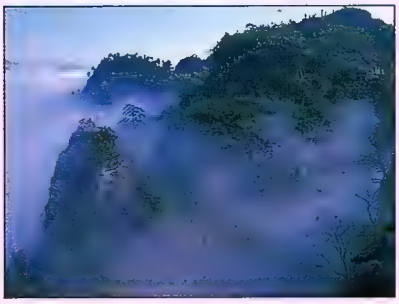
Royal Tomb

A three-month excavation begun in September 1994 in the Shaanxi Province, has yielded 180 pottery figurines, a small cache of silk, jadeware and pearls from the tomb of Emperor Yu Wenhu and his empress. Yu reined briefly in northern China from 561 to 565, and was known for his bold reforms and simple life. He was part of the Northern Zhou Dynasty (557-581), founded by the Xianbei people.

Post Script: Lost Temple of Heaven Relic Returned

A chiming bell stolen by foreign troops has finally returned to the Temple of Heaven this March after 95 years, thanks to the Indian Army Chief of Staff General, B.C. Joshi. In 1994, Joshi was due to visit China and on the eve of his departure, it was then that he thought of the ideal present for his Chinese hosts. The gold-gilded chiming bell was displayed at the regiment club where Joshi began his army career decades before. He was told that the bell was brought to India after a Major Douglas of the British Army had stolen it from the Temple of Heaven in Beijing during the 1900 invasion of the capital. Chiming bells can produce different sounds according to the thickness of the body. They were an essential musical instrument in performances at all important ceremonies in ancient China. The bell, one of a 16-set piece made in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), weighs about 17.5 kilograms and is decorated with designs of mountains, oceans, dragons and phoenixes to symbolize peace and the changing seasons.

NEXT ISSUE



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The Uygurs: A Warm and Enthusiastic People

Tracing the Ruins of the Three Kingdoms (2)

Among China's 1.2 billion population, there are 56 nationalities. Celebrating 1995 China Folklore Tour Year, as designated by China National Tourism Bureau, we take a special look at a variety of customs and cultures of just some of China's rich ethnic diversity. In the northwest of China we visit the exciting "New Frontier" of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, home of the Uygur nationality. Moving to the southwest, we visit the Aini people in Xishuangbanna in Yunnan Province, and across Guizhou and Guangxi, we learn about the Frog Festival of the Zhuang people, the Dong custom of Parading the Governor and we also meet the Shui people.— So don't miss issue 179's real and extraordinary carnivalesque people's landscape!

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